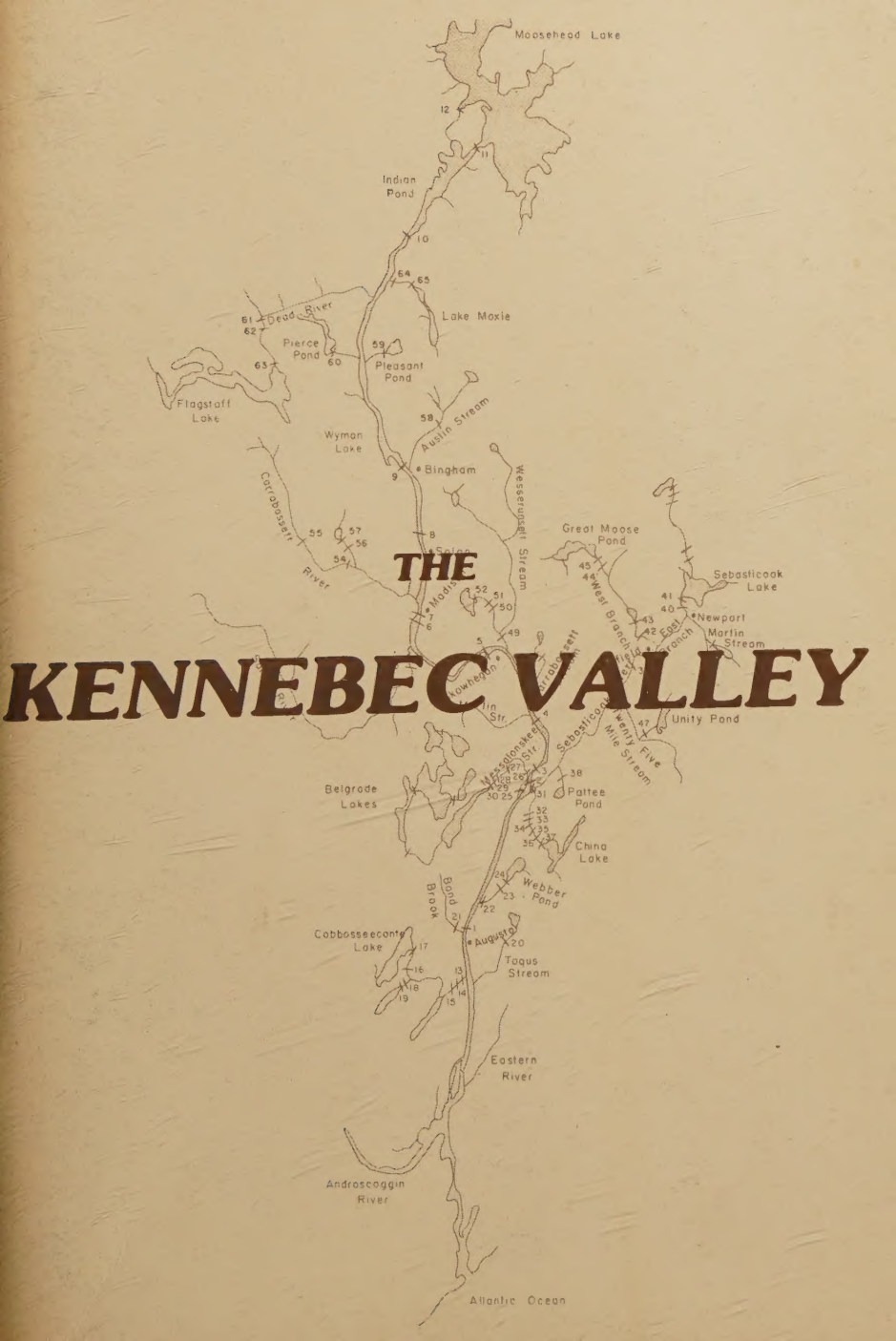
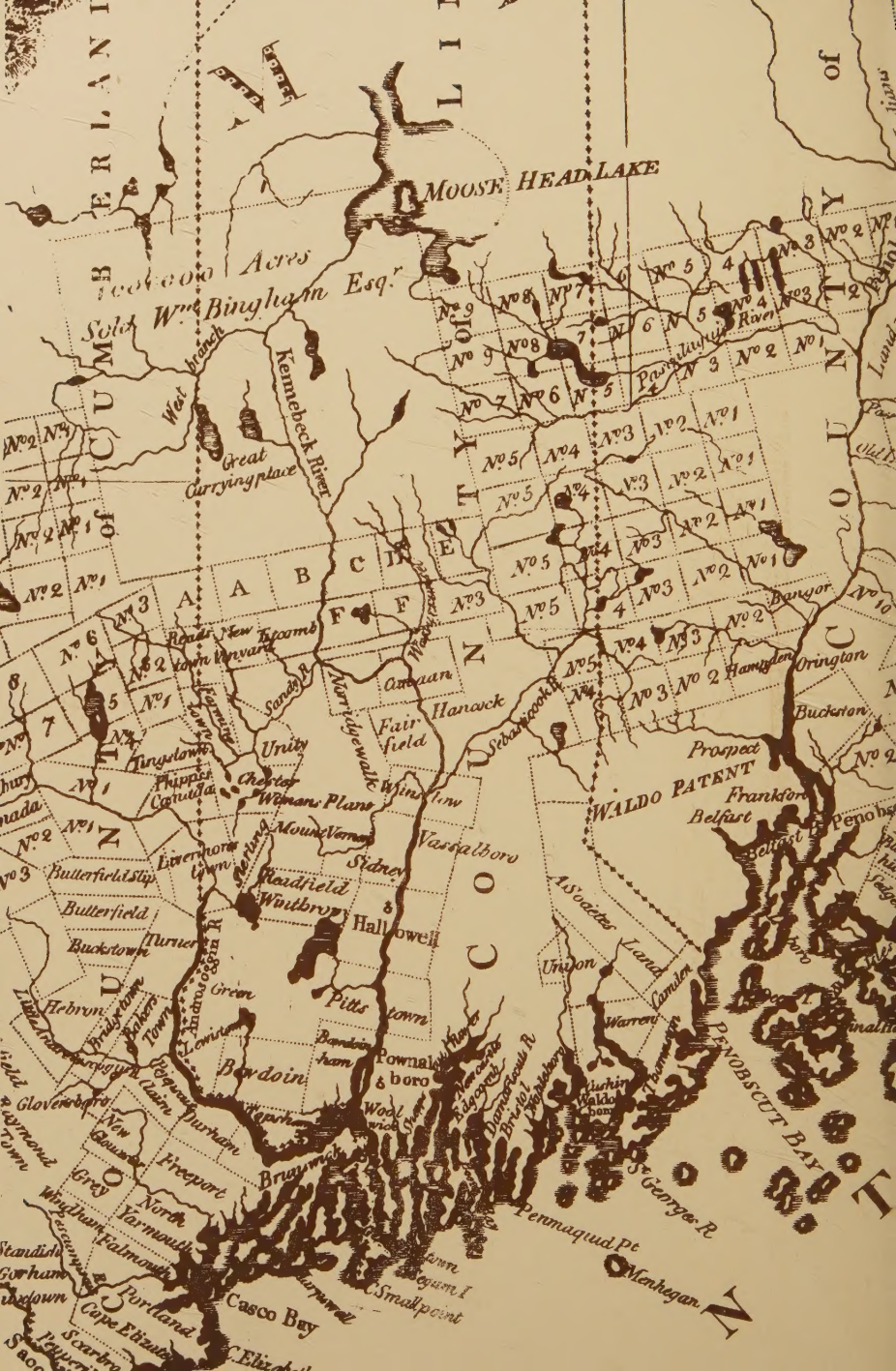



# THE KENNEBEC VALLEY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Great Carrying place
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Norridgewalk R
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Penobscot R
Kennebeck R
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Frankfort
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Hanover
Fairfield
Unity
Vassalboro
Sidney
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Augusta
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Bowdoinham
Topsham
Brunswick
Harpswell
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Falmouth
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Cape Elizabeth
Casco Bay
Smuttpoint
Penmaquid Pt
Menhegan
St Georges R
Union
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Hebron
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# THE

# KENNEBEC VALLEY.

THIS WORK IS DEVOTED TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE VALLEY; ALSO RELATING MANY INCIDENTS AND ADVENTURES OF THE EARLY SETTLERS; INCLUDING A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE KENNEBEC INDIAN.

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S. H. WHITNEY.

1887.

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AUGUSTA:
SPRAGUE, BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1887.

# PREFACE.

The Kennebec valley was the birthplace of the writer of this little volume; his childhood days were spent in a small town upon the river's bank. His maturer years have been spent in this beautiful valley. The towns treated of in this work are among the most important in the State. The writer wishes to give a faithful record of the wondrous past; such a record as will be read with interest at every fireside. It is believed that the work is, as far as is possible in a first edition, correct; and it is recommended to the careful consideration of the inhabitants of the valley, and it is hoped that the general reader may become interested.

S. H. W.

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# CHAPTER I.

## THE KENNEBEC INDIAN.

When the valley up the Kennebec was first explored it was inhabited by a tribe of Indians known as Kennebis.

The ruler of this great tribe lived upon Little Swan Island, a small island in the Kennebec River, between Richmond and Dresden. He bore the title of Bashaba, and from him or his ancestors the river and tribe received their name.

It appears that the abode of this great chieftain was strongly fortified. The ruins of this fortress may be seen to-day. It was built in circular form, with the entrance from the north, which was probably an underground passage.

The Kennebecs were divided into four subordinate tribes, each family being subject to a chief, who in turn paid fealty to the Bashaba, who was looked upon as the supreme ruler.

The territory in the Kennebec valley was divided by the Bashaba as follows:

The Sagadahocs were given the territory lying between Merry-Meeting Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The Cussenockes dwelt in the vicinity of Augusta. The Tacconets possessed and occupied the fertile region that is watered by the Sebasticook, a tributary of the Kennebec, and the Norridgewogs met in council in the sacred vale of Norridgewock. Those families applied separate names to the river as it flowed through those different localities.

The Kennebec River between Merry-Meeting Bay and the ocean was called Sagadahoc, the tribe of the same name dwelling upon its shores.

The river between Merry-Meeting Bay and Skowhegan Falls bore the name of their acknowledged ruler who dwelt upon Swan Island. Between Skowhegan and Solon the river bore the name of Aruntsook, and from the falls at Solon to Moose Head Lake it was called Carratunk. This lake, which is the fountain of the river, was called Cerbon, a word signifying "great waters."

Sebastian Rale, who was a missionary among the Kennebec Indians for over a

quarter of a century, gives the following description of them:

"Their cabins were made by planting a center pole and covering it with bark; the fire in the middle on the ground, and their beds and chairs were mats made of reeds, spread upon the earth. The men dressed in the skins of animals or in loose robes of red or blue cloth, and the women wore a mantle, reaching to the middle of the leg, very gracefully arranged with a light covering thrown over the head and falling to the feet, and stockings from the knee to the ankle. Their moccasins were of deer-skin. In the winter they wore snow-shoes, without which they could not subsist. With them they were able to overtake the swiftest animals. They were tall, powerful and active, with teeth whiter than ivory. Their only ornaments were beads made of shell, white and black, so arranged in belts and the like, as to represent different figures with great beauty. Their children were regarded with the greatest affection and the utmost respect was manifest toward the aged. Their skill with the bow was great; even children could shoot with astonishing accuracy. They ate with great irregularity; feasted upon the best one day and famished the next. Tobacco was used

by all and esteemed the greatest luxury. They were less barbarous than other tribes." —HANSON. *History of Norridgewock.*

Although the early settlers in the Kennebec valley suffered much from the hostilities of the natives, the instance has yet to be recorded where the Kennebec Indian was the first aggressor. When this region was first explored by the whites there were several Indian villages in it.

Rale writes of the one in which he established a mission, "The village in which I live is called Narantsouak. * * * The river which flows through my mission is the largest of all those which water the territories of the Indians. It should be marked upon the maps by the name of Kinibiki. * * * This river empties into the bay of Sankderank."—HANSON. *History of Norridgewock.*

We will give a brief description of this Indian village. It was situated upon the eastern bank of the river, in the southwestern part of the town of Madison. The river circumscribed it upon the west, and was protected by a background of forest-crowned hills. A common road skirted the bank of the river.

The wigwams were erected in two parallel rows, leaving a space between them which was used for a street. This street ran north

and south. At the northern end of the street stood a chapel, in which the inhabitants of the village assembled for worship. At the southern end of the street was a building which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Whittier has described their manner of worship thus:

"On the brow of a hill, which slopes to meet
The flowing river, and bathe its feet,
The bare-washed rock and the drooping grass,
And the creeping vines as the waters pass,—
A rude and unshapely chapel stands,
Built up in that wild by unskilled hands;
Yet, the traveller knows it a place of prayer,
For the holy sign of the cross is there;
And should he chance at that place to be,
Of a Sabbath morn, or some hallowed day
When prayers are made and masses are said,
Some for the living, and some for the dead,
Well might the traveller start to see
The tall, dark forms that take their way,
From the birch canoe on the river shore,
And the forest paths to that chapel door;
And marvel to mark the naked knees
And the dusky foreheads bending there,—
And stretching his long, thin arms over these,—
In blessing and in prayer,
Like a shrouded spectre, pale and tall,
In his coarse white vesture, Father Ralle."

—HANSON. *History of Norridgewock.*

Sebastian Rale dwelt among the Indians for nearly half a century. He made his home,

while in the Kennebec valley, at Narantsouak, and in this Indian village, surrounded by the natives of the forests, he fell in the cold embrace of death.

The following lines have been composed as a token to his memory.

Within Bombazeen's mournful sound,
By the side of the crystal wave,
In the vale of Narantsouak,
There lies a lonely grave;
A monument marks that sepulchre,
The white man placed it o'er;
For an Indian brave upturned the sod,
And laid the dead man there.

As the whites began to flock in and people the fertile shores of the Kennebec River, the Indian was compelled to retreat from before them.

The rich lands were purchased of the Indians for mere trifles, and they were driven from their hunting grounds.

The Bashaba was obliged to vacate his seat upon Swan Island, the Indian village at Augusta was deserted, and the Tacconets were relentlessly driven from the teeming slopes of the Sebasticook. E'er a century had elapsed, three families of the once powerful Kennebec tribe were driven from the valley. The weakened remnant gathered within the sacred vale of Narantsouak and

requested of the English permission to dwell in the northern portion of the valley of the Kennebec. The English would not grant this request, and in August, 1724, the last of the Kennebec tribe were driven from the valley.

> Alas! for them—their day is o'er,
> Their fires are out from hill to shore;
> No more for them the wild deer bounds;
> The plow is on their hunting grounds;
> The pale man's axe rings through their woods,
> The pale man's sail skims o'er their floods.

The prominent sachems in those Indian tribes were as follows: The Bashaba, whose abode was upon Swan Island, and to whom all the sachems of each family yielded obedience.

Robinhood was a distinguished sachem in the Sagadahoc family; his abode was upon the eastern bank of the river in the town of Woolwich. He was ever a friend to the whites.

Abbigadassett was a sachem in the Cussenocke family; he dwelt in Bowdoinham. Assiminasqua dwelt at Waterville, and was the chief speaker in the Kennebec councils Bombazeen, for whom the rapids above Norridgewock were named, was a bold sachem in the Norridgewog family.

This ends the brief history of a tribe whose annals if complete would present one of the most interesting stories of ancient or modern days.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE KENNEBEC RIVER.

Every locality has its pages of unwritten history, which, when transcribed by the pen of the lover of antiquarian research, becomes of transcendent interest to every reader. The valley of the Kennebec, though of comparative recent discovery, is not inferior in romantic scenery or historic note to the valley of the Euphrates or the Nile.

The Kennebec River flows through three large counties in its journey to the ocean. It takes its rise in Somerset County, divides Kennebec County into two sections, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean, through Sagadahoc County. As one enters the river's mouth, from among the beautiful islands of Casco Bay, a delightful view greets the eye. The peaceful river as it stretches up into the mainland, the magnificent headlands, the

Eden-like islands, the bold outlines of distant mountains that loom up into the clear air, or are draped by wandering clouds, present to the lover of natural beauty one of the most charming views to be found in this country.

At the mouth of the river, upon the western bank, stands "Fort Popham," built of granite, guarding as it were the inhabitants of the valley from the invasion of an enemy. As we advance up this broad river, we are cheered by the loveliness of the scene around us; the snow-white sails of vessels that glide upon the river's bosom, the swift steamboat, the verdant fields, and the roar and din of populous cities, all bespeak the advancement of civilized life.

A few miles from the mouth of the river is Merry-Meeting Bay. This bay receives the waters of the Androscoggin River, a tributary to the Kennebec. At the head of this bay, in the Kennebec River, is a small island which was once the home of the great ruler of the tribe, and when this noted sachem appointed a joyful feast, the forest-crowned shores of Merry-Meeting Bay re-echoed the songs of a thousand dusky warriors. A course continued up the river from the bay will bring us to the artificial falls at Augusta.

Here the current meets the tide, after falling one thousand and seventy feet in running a distance of about one hundred miles. The water falls at Augusta about fifteen feet, thus furnishing valuable power which is well improved. As we advance up the river from this point, the general beauty of the scenery, the fertility of the soil and the neat appearance of the buildings will impart most favorable impressions. The river between Augusta and Waterville flows in a southerly direction; the water is usually smooth, there being no falls or rapids to disturb its peace. At Waterville the water dashes wildly over the rocks, seeming to take delight in disturbing the usual calm and peaceful course of the river from that point to the dam at Augusta. Just below these falls the Sebasticook unites with the Kennebec. At the junction of these two rivers stands "Fort Halifax," which marks the spot where dwelt the Ticonnets but a little more than a century ago.

As we pass from Ticonnet Falls to the falls at Skowhegan, we find ourselves amid the verdant slopes and fertile vales of Fairfield, and what was once the town of Bloomfield, names which originated from the blooming appearance of this section, and, as the traveller passes through this region, the rich fields upon each

bank afford many pleasing landscapes to the eye. Arriving at Skowhegan Falls, the traveller will pause to admire them and the beautiful village which is spread out before him. The total fall of the water at this point is twenty-eight feet. Thus far from the sea our course has been toward the north, but at this point, in order to follow the river, we take our course toward the west. Following the river in this direction for about six miles brings us to Norridgewock.

Few localities offer more interesting considerations to the student of Indian history than the town of Norridgewock and its surroundings. As we leave this romantic village, by the way of the river, we change our course again and take a course toward the north, and soon we arrive at "Old Point," which was the sacred home of the ancient Norridgewogs, and upon this historic spot we will tarry; and, while refreshing our memory with reminiscences of the past, we can repose amid the quietude of nature, and in a measure realize the wonderful change that a century has wrought in this sacred vale.

The section lying between "Old Point" and Carratunk Falls at Solon is noted for its great fertility. The river as it flows through this region is studded with fertile islands,

while rich intervals line its shores. The Kennebec valley has been styled "the garden of Maine," this section of the valley is decidedly the garden of the Kennebec valley.

As we advance up the river from Solon, the scene changes; the surface of the land appears more broken than it was in the lower part of the valley; and as the river traces its way among the hills, dashing down swift rapids, and curling beneath rocky shores, it seems to the traveller that at some remote period in the world's history the northern part of Kennebec valley has been visited by some terrific shock. The whole region north of the falls at Solon was called by the Indian Carratunk, a word meaning something very rough or broken. As we pass through this region it seems to us that we are completely shut in by the lofty hills around us; upon our left, as we ascend the river, stands "Old Bluff," lifting its craggy peaks up into the clear air, while its base is bathed by the foaming waters of the river. Upon our right appears a small village nestled among the hills, and towering above them all is seen the mossy summit of Baker Mountain.

As we pass along the valley north of Bingham, occasional farm-houses dot the vales and cheer the loneliness of the hour. At last we

reach "The Great Carrying Place of the Kennebec, and, as we approach the historic spot, our mind goes back over the period of a century, and we see the brave Arnold, with a band of worn-out men, halting upon the river bank and preparing to transport their equipments through the wilderness to Dead River.

The Kennebec River is formed by two large streams uniting together and thus forming the great river in Maine. These two branches unite about fourteen miles above the carrying place; the West Branch or Dead River bows around so that it may be reached by leaving the main river at the "Carry Place Rips," so called, and carrying across a point of land which is formed by the bend of Dead River.

Benedict Arnold carried his munitions of war through this pathless wilderness when on his journey to Quebec. But a short distance above the rapids at the carrying place, the angry waters of Pierce Pond Stream unite with the Kennebec; and as you turn to notice the roughest stream in this region, the eye first rests upon Pierce Pond Mountain, rising to the height of five thousand feet above the river's bosom. Close at hand is Otter Pond Mountain, while in the distance may

be seen Old Spot and Old Squill lifting up their proud heads, and in the background, towering far above them all, appears Mt. Bigelow in all her grandeur; and as the weary traveller stops to rest in this historic vale he can but admire the ruggedness of the scenery around him. If a course we continue north for a few miles, we pass through a wild country, broken and mountainous; occasionally may be seen the smoke arising from some lonely dwelling; now and then will appear a small interval, till at last we arrive at the "Forks" or junction of the two branches of the Kennebec. The "East Branch" or the outlet of Moose Head Lake comes from the east and the other branch comes from the west. Having a desire to explore the territory which is drained by the western branch of the river, we turn to enter the unbroken and uninhabited wilderness of the Northern Kennebec valley. As we leave the habitation of man and enter the forest, to trace the river of the Dead to its source, there is a stillness prevailing which is broken only by the soft ripple of the wavelets and the sweet notes of the winged songsters who dwell in the waving branches of the lofty pines around us.

Carefully working our way along the banks of the river, we arrive at "Arnold's Parade

Ground," which will be described in another chapter; soon we reach "Arnold's Falls." Passing them, the stream begins to grow smaller till at last it seems to be nothing but a small brook or the overflow of some spring. As we approach the great barrier of mountains that we saw when we entered the mouth of the river from Casco Bay, we feel it is impossible for us to pass them, and halting for a moment to survey the territory around us, we notice a few rods to the south of us a small pond the waters of which reach the Atlantic by way of the Androscoggin River, which unites with the Kennebec waters in Merry-Meeting Bay.

Wishing to find the most northerly waters of the Kennebec, we take a course toward the north along the base of the highlands that lie between the valleys of the St. Lawrence and Kennebec. As we pick our way through this dense wilderness, we pass several small streams which flow into the western branch of the Kennebec River. After a wearisome journey over trackless mountains and through deep ravines, we discover a small stream that flows in an easterly direction, and as we trace this rivulet in its downward course, it becomes broader and deeper until its waters unite with the dark waters of Attean Pond.

At the foot of this pond the stream appears again, much larger than it was when we bade adieu to it as it entered the pond.

Passing through the forests that line those shores, we find three bodies of water connected by the little stream that we found amid the mountains, that mark the terminus of the Kennebec valley. These ponds are all called "Wood Pond," and are separately named thus: "Wood Pond," "Little Wood Pond," and "Little Big Wood Pond." We do not know the origin of the names as given above, but it is safe to say that these ponds are in the midst of the forests of the northern part of Somerset County.

We next reach a small settlement, which we will call Tadmor in the Wilderness; this little hamlet is not surrounded as was Palmyra, by palm trees, but it is sheltered by forests of pine trees and the soil is much more productive than was the soil of the ancient "Tadmor," as it was called in the Syriac language. But a few miles below this village is Long Pond, which is a beautiful sheet of water ten miles in length and about two miles wide.

From the foot of this pond we trace its outlet until we arrive at the never failing fountain of the Kennebec River called Moose

Head Lake. This lake is the largest body of fresh water in New England, and as we stand upon its shores and survey the beautiful landscape that is spread out before us it is delightful, picturesque and enchanting. Paradise at its creation could look no fairer than the picture before us.

Perhaps a brief description of this locality would be of interest to the reader. As we stand upon the western shore of the lake at the mouth of Moose River, the little stream that has guided us to this point, and look toward the east you can see spread out before you the crystal waters of the lake; upon the eastern shore, directly in front of you, looms up the brown, hornstone precipice of Mt. Kineo, and still further eastward towers the granite block of Katahdin. As you turn to the right you observe the moss-covered summit of Old Squaw, the mother of Kineo. There is a legend which runs thus: A noted sachem of the Kennebec tribe, when driven from his home upon Swan Island, fled to this region and built his wigwam upon the summit of Mt. Kineo, and that he died upon this barren rock, and thus ended the family of Kennebis, from whom the river was named. Also, that the mother of the last Bashaba or

ruler of the tribe had dwelt for over a century upon the lofty summit of Squaw Mountain, and upon learning the fact of her son being driven from his home upon Swan Island, quietly folded her arms in death. And that for many years after the death of this great chieftain and his aged mother, their campfires might be seen upon the rocky crag of Kineo. Although this but a fable, yet, it is true that the last remaining few of the Kennebec tribe wandered about the shores of Moose Head Lake until they became extinct. We find the outlet of the lake, or the east branch of the Kennebec, soon we arrive at Indian Pond; further down Cold Stream unites with this branch of the river; and as the river flows through this region it affords many pleasing views to the lover of natural beauty.

At last we arrive at "The Forks" again, or the junction of the two great arms of the Kennebec River. We have made a circuit through the northern portion of the Kennebec valley; and not wishing to take another trip through the wilderness, we retrace our steps toward the sea; and as we pass down the valley villages appear, and the smoke ascends from many quiet homesteads grouped peacefully together, and as the river broadens and

deepens, our frail canoe gives place to the swift steamboat, and as we reach the ocean and look out upon the white-capped waves, there goes up a silent prayer of gratitude to Him who holds the waters in his hand.

## CHAPTER III.

### SOURCES OF LAND TITLES IN THE KENNEBEC VALLEY.

In 1493, the Pope issued a bull granting the New World, which Columbus had discovered the previous year, to the sovereigns of Spain and Portugal. It has been claimed that Spain, in the year 1566, took possession of the valley of the Kennebec and planted a colony at Pemaquid and built fortifications at the river, founding their claim upon the grant of Alexander VI, Pope of Rome. But the claim was abandoned before the end of the sixteenth century.

As the territory in the Kennebec valley was settled by the English, we will present to the reader a few of the most important links in the intricate historical chain.

A papal bull at that age of the world was regarded as authority by Catholic nations. England becoming Protestant at that time questioned this claim of the Papacy, and in 1496, Henry VII, King of England, granted to John Cabot, a resident of Bristol, England, permission to go in search of unknown lands and to conquer and to settle them in the name of the King of England.

A vessel was equipped and placed under the command of Sebastian Cabot, a son of John Cabot, to whom the patent had been granted. Cabot sailed from England in the spring of 1497, upon a voyage of discovery. About the first of June, 1497, Cabot landed upon the continent of America and took possession of it in the name of the king; therefore, the claim of Great Britain to the territory drained by the Kennebec River was founded upon Cabot's discovery. More than a century passed away before any attempt was made by the English to plant colonies in the valley of the Kennebec, yet, the claim which was founded upon Cabot's discovery had been kept alive. In the spring of 1605, the Earl of Southampton and Lord Arundel equipped a ship called "The Archangel" and sent her to New England under the command

of Captain George Weymouth. Weymouth sailed from the Downs on the last day of March, 1605, and about the middle of May he came to an island and anchored upon the north side. Weymouth went on shore and took possession of it in the name of James I, King of England. Weymouth named the island St. George; it is now generally admitted that this was Monhegan Island, which lies about thirty miles east of the Kennebec River. Weymouth stopped at this point two or three days, and then weighed anchor and entered a small bay which seemed to be an inviting harbor. Of this bay Rasier, the historian of the voyage, wrote, "It pleased God to send us far beyond our expectations, in a safe berth, secluded from all winds, in an excellent depth of water, for ships of any burden, and which was named Pentecost Harbor." [Abbott.] Captain Weymouth, with a well-armed party, explored the shores of the bay, taking possession of them in the name of the king.

As the soil appeared to be rich they prepared a small piece of ground and planted a few seeds, which, in sixteen days, grew to the height of eight inches. This was the first attempt made by Europeans to cultivate the soil of the Kennebec valley.

About the first of July Captain Weymouth entered the Kennebec. The historian of the voyage thus describes the river: "The river as it runneth up into the main very nigh forty miles towards the mountains, beareth in breadth a mile, sometimes three-quarters, and a half at the narrowest. And you shall never have under four or five fathoms of water hard by the shore, and on both sides very gallant coves." [Abbott.]

It would appear by the foregoing description that Captain Weymouth explored the Kennebec River as far up as Merry-Meeting Bay. While Weymouth was in this region, the Indians were friendly in their intercourse with the English; but, on the other hand, Weymouth lured into captivity some of the unsuspecting natives and took them to England. It seems hard to have to record that the first English explorer of this beautiful valley should allow himself to so depart from the Golden Rule as to carry captive to a foreign land five of the natives who had never before looked upon an English vessel and her crew. Had Weymouth intended to kindle the spark of hatred that dwelt in the red man's breast, he could have taken no better course.

In the autumn of the same year, Captain Weymouth returned to England. The report of his voyage excited the leading minds of the kingdom. It was perceived that although the Kennebec valley was destitute of the gold and silver mines of Mexico and Peru, yet it was rich in the superior resources of natural fertility, inexhaustive fisheries, fine harbors and heathful and convenient localities for colonization and trade.

Speedily an association of English gentlemen was formed; having for its object the carrying into effect such measures as would cause the Kennebec valley to become populated, as it is to-day, by a frugal and industrious people. This association took the name of the "Plymouth Colony," and was the germ of the Plymouth Council which was organized in 1620, in Plymouth, England.

Prominent among the members of the Plymouth Colony was Lord John Popham, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Raleigh Gilbert and George Popham.

In the spring of 1607, this association sent two ships to the mouth of the Kennebec River for the purpose of planting a colony upon the territory that had been explored by Captain Weymouth. The colonists landed upon the western shore of the Kennebec in the

southern part of the town of Phipsburg. The colonists remained until the following spring, when they returned to England. Their return excited the surprise and deep regret of the "Plymouth Colony." The colonists gave a most discouraging report of the valley and its inhabitants, saying that it was a frozen shore, the soil was unproductive and the natives were the very outcasts of creation.

Soon after the return of this band of disheartened men to England, Sir John Popham, the leading member of the association, died.

During the next twenty-five years the "Plymouth Council" made no attempt to plant colonies in the Kennebec valley. In 1620 the Plymouth Council received from King James their charter.

They were known as "the council established at Plymouth, in the county of Devon, for planting, ruling and governing New England in America."

In 1628 there were eighty-four families residing at the mouth of the Kennebec River; if those persons received any title to their land it was obtained from the Indians who were the true owners of the rich lands in the valley.

In 1629 William Bradford, who was at that time governor of the Puritan colony at Ply-

mouth, received from the "Plymouth Council" a grant of a large tract of land in the Kennebec valley. It was called the "Kennebec Patent," and read as follows:

"And whereas this Pilgrim Colony at Plymouth had no convenient place within their realms, for fishing or trading, * * * * The said Council granted and assigned unto William Bradford, his heirs, associates and assigns, all that tract of land or part of New England in America which lieth within, between and extendeth itself from the utmost limits of the Cobbossecontee which adjoineth the river Kennebec, toward the western ocean and a place called the falls at Negamkike in America, and the space of fifteen English miles on each side of the said river, commonly called Kennebec River, and the said river that lies within the said limits eastward, westward, northward or southward, last above mentioned, and all lands, grounds, soils, rivers, waters, fishings, situate, lying and being, arising, happening, and accruing, in or within the said limits and bounds or either of them, together with all rights and jurisdictions thereof the Admirality Jurisdiction excepted, in as free, large and beneficial manner, to all constructions and purposes, whatsoever, as

the said Council by virtue of His Majesty's letters patents might or could grant.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said tract and tracts of lands, and all and singular the priveleges above mentioned to be granted with their and every of their appurtenances, to the said William Bradford, his heirs, associates and assigns forever, to the only proper and absolute use; and unto our said SOVEREIGN LORD the KING, his heirs, and successors forever, one-fifth part of the ore of the mines of gold and silver, and one-fifth part thereof to the President and Council which shall be had, possessed and obtained within the precincts aforesaid, for all services whatsoever as in said charter may more fully appear."

By the foregoing grant, the Kennebec valley was divided into two sections; that portion lying between the ocean and the southern line of the town of Anson was nearly all included within the given boundaries. This left a vast region north of the "Kennebec Patent," which we will call the Upper Kennebec.

About the year 1630, the Pilgrims at Plymouth erected a trading house at the mouth of the river, and another above Merry-Meet-

ing Bay, and quite an extensive trade was carried on with the natives.

On the 25th of April, 1635, the "Plymouth Council" held its last meeting. In surrendering their charter to the king, the following record was placed upon their books:

"We have been bereaved of friends, oppressed with losses, expenses, and troubles, assailed before the privy council with groundless charges, and weakened by the French and other foes without and within the realm. What remains is only a breathless carcass. We now, therefore, resign the patent to the King, first reserving all grants by us made, and all vested rights." [Abbott.]

Among the grants that had been made by the "Plymouth Council" was the "Kennebec Patent" to William Bradford. About the time that the "Plymouth Council" surrendered their charter to the king, Bradford assigned to the Pilgrim Colony at Plymouth his claim in the valley up the Kennebec. The colony at Plymouth in 1661, sold the Bradford claim to Antipas Boyes, Edward Twing, Thomas Brattle and John Winslow, for the sum of two thousand dollars. This claim afterward passed into the hands of a company called "The Proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase."

King Charles, upon receiving the charter from the "Plymouth Council," wherein they were authorized to govern New England, appointed Sir Ferdinando Gorges as governor of all New England. It will be remembered that Gorges was a member of the "Plymouth Colony" that was formed in 1606. Sir Ferdinando Gorges had ever, from the time that he and Popham sent the colony to the mouth of the Kennebec River, taken a deep interest in the settlement of the valley. He had planted a colony in the western part of the valley at his own expense, and after receiving the appointment as governor of New England, we learn that he always had an especial care for the early settlers in the beautiful valley of the Kennebec.

King Charles, perceiving the interest that Governor Gorges took in the early settlements in this section, April 3, 1639, issued a provincial charter to him, conferring upon him extensive territory and the jurisdiction thereof, in the valley of the Kennebec.

The province was bounded by the Kennebec River upon the east, Dead River upon the north, the Canadian border and New Hampshire line formed the western boundary, and the Atlantic coast from the mouth of the Piscataquis River to the mouth of the Ken-

nebec River was the boundary on the south. This region was called the "Province of Maine."

Sir Ferdinando Gorges and his heirs were lord proprietors of this vast domain, only being required to take the oath of allegiance to the king. Governor Gorges appointed his nephew, William Gorges, as deputy governor of the province.

There were at this time several small settlements in the western part of the province. About the middle of the seventeenth century, Sir Ferdinando Gorges died, and the "Province of Maine" was left at the disposal of the Gorges heirs. In 1677, the heirs sold the "Province of Maine" to Massachusetts Bay Colony, with all royalties and jurisdictions within the purchase. In the royal charter of the "Province of Maine," Dead River was the northern boundary of the claim, but in the title that the Gorges heirs gave to Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Canadian line was made the northern boundary, and the east branch of the Kennebec River from the forks of the river to Moose Head Lake, and a straight line extending from the foot of the lake to the St. John's River was the eastern border.

It will be observed by a glance at a map of Maine that the title which was given by the Gorges heirs embraced considerable more territory than was included within the charter of King Charles. Thus the whole territory which is embraced within the limits of Maine upon the western bank of the Kennebec River has been canvassed; and now, with the permission of the reader, we will notice the sources from which flowed the land titles upon the eastern bank of the river.

In 1629, the "Kennebec Patent" was issued by the "Plymouth Council" to William Bradford. It will be remembered that his patent embraced a strip of land fifteen miles in width, upon the eastern bank of the Kennebec River.

Bradford claimed that the ocean was the southern boundary of his claim. About the year 1630, the "Plymouth Council" granted to Elbridge and Aldsworth a tract of land adjoining Bradford's claim upon the east, which was called the "Pemaquid Patent."

As early as 1665, King Charles granted to his brother all that territory lying between the Atlantic Ocean and St. John's River, and in breadth extending from the mouth of the Kennebec to the St. Croix River. This section was known as "The Territory of Saga-

dahoc." It was an encroachment upon the Pemaquid and Kennebec patents.

In 1691, the Puritan Colony of Plymouth, the Province of Maine, the Territory of Sagadahoc and the Massachusetts Bay Colony were all incorporated into the Royal Province of Massachusetts Bay, under the charter of William and Mary.

Massachusetts at that time claimed the right of government in this region and incorporated it into a county called Yorkshire. In 1760, the counties of Cumberland and Lincoln were taken from York County, and separately incorporated. In 1776, a war began between England and America, and in 1783, it closed by a treaty of peace with England, whereby she relinquished her claim to the territory in the Kennebec valley, and it was afterwards claimed by Massachusetts. In 1790, the State of Massachusetts was divided into three sections or districts; the counties of York, Cumberland and Lincoln formed the northern division or the district of Maine, as it became known, which name it retained until its separation from Massachusetts in 1820, when it became an independent State.

Having traced the claim of England from the date of Cabot's discovery to the time when she was compelled to acknowledge the

independence of the American colonies; also to the time when Massachusetts surrendered her charter whereby she claimed the territory drained by the Kennebec River, we will notice the different counties into which the State of Maine is divided. The first court held within the limits of Maine was organized by the nephew of Sir Ferdinando Gorges within what was afterward called "The Province of Maine" by King Charles. Previous to the year when the charter of the province was issued it was called "New Somersetshire."

The Gorges were supreme rulers of this province until 1677, when it was sold to Massachusetts and went under the jurisdiction of that State.

In 1692, the first royal Governor of Massachusetts was appointed. At that time the original county of York was incorporated, embracing within its jurisdiction the whole of the present State of Maine.

It held jurisdiction over this vast domain until 1760, a period of one hundred and thirty-one years.

Cumberland County. The territory embraced within this county was taken from York County in 1760. This county originally embraced Androscoggin, Franklin, and

parts of Oxford, Kennebec and Somerset counties.

Lincoln County. Taken from York County, and incorporated in 1760. At that time it embraced all the territory lying east of Cumberland County, within the District of Maine.

The counties of Hancock, Oxford, Somerset, Kennebec, Washington and Penobscot were incorporated within the District of Maine previous to 1820, the date of the separation from Massachusetts. Since that time, Waldo, Franklin, Piscataquis, Aroostook, Androscoggin, Sagadahoc and Knox counties have been incorporated, making sixteen in all.

We will now notice a few of the most important sales of land that were made by the Indians before they were driven from the valley.

When the English first entered and laid claim to the Kennebec valley, it was occupied by a race of beings known as the Kennebec Indians. Each member of this great tribe owned an undivided part of the territory; the sachems alone had power to convey to other persons whatever portions of the land belonging to the tribe they might wish, only with this proviso: that no sachem had a right to the soil beyond his natural life, and that whatever lands he might dispose of must at

his death revert to the tribe again. Not so with the English; whenever they framed a deed it was a title to the land bought forever. This led to many disputes between the English and the Indian. The red man claimed all transfers of land to have been only during the life of the grantor, while the purchaser held that his title to the land was perpetual, and boastfully pointed to his deed; his bayonets bristled behind it, and silent obedience on the part of the Indian followed necessity. And though an Indian sachem was made drunk, and for a mere trifle sold a rich township holding beneath its turf the graves of a thousand years; yet, might made right, and the strong arm conquered.

Who could blame the Indian if he had said, White man, there is continual war between me and thee; thou shalt build and I will burn, until the English or the Indian shall be driven from the valley. Much of the land in the lower part of the Kennebec valley was purchased of the Indians, and some of it several times over.

In 1625, John Brown bought of an Indian sachem the territory embraced within the town of Bristol.

In 1648, James Smith bought of Robinhood a large tract of land upon the eastern bank of the Kennebec River.

In 1655, Richard Wharton bought of the Indians about five thousand acres of land lying west of the Kennebec River. This was known as the "Pejepscot Purchase."

In 1667, Humphrey Davie bought of Abbigadassett, an Indian sachem who dwelt in Bowdoinham, the island that had been the home of the ruler of the Kennebec tribe for ages, namely, Swan Island, in the Kennebec River, at the head of Merry-Meeting Bay.

Little by little, step by step, had the Indian been driven from his land, until, by the middle of the eighteenth century, there were but few to be found in the valley of the Kennebec.

But, to return for a moment to the Bradford claim, which was first known as the "Kennebec Patent." About the time that Cumberland County was incorporated, the heirs of Boyes, Brattle, Twing and Winslow held a meeting, and new proprietors were added, and a company formed, called "The Proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase." As the boundaries as given in the grant of the Plymouth Council were rather indefinite, a new survey was had and, after much litiga-

tion, they were established as follows: "The Kennebec Patent," according to the decision of several eminent men, included all the land fifteen miles wide upon each bank of the Kennebec River, from the north line of the town of Woolwich to the south line of the town of Anson.

The question as to the boundaries of the Plymouth Grant having been settled, the proprietors at once took measures to settle this portion of the Kennebec valley. They offered to give to any person a lot of land containing one or two hundred acres, providing that the person to whom the grant was made should agree to live upon the lot a term of years, and make certain improvements upon the lot granted.

Those who desired grants were obliged to present a petition to the company, like the following:

"To the Proprietors of the KENNEBEC PURCHASE, from the late Colony of NEW PLYMOUTH."

"I, the subscriber, —— —— of ——, in the county of ——, being desirous of settling within your Purchase, pray you would make a grant to me and my heirs of the lot numbered ——, containing —— acres, situated

in ——, within your said Purchase. And I hereby agree for myself and heirs that the conditions of the said grant shall be performed, namely: that a dwelling-house shall be built on the said lot not less than eighteen feet square, that five acres of said lot shall be cleared and made ready for tillage within three years from the date of the grant, and that I will dwell thereon personally if living, or, in case of my death, that my heirs or some person under them shall dwell on said premises during said term; and for the term of seven years more by myself or substitute; and as soon as said grant shall be made out and ready to be delivered to me, I hereby promise to pay seven shillings lawful money, toward defraying your expenses for surveying."

Thus the early settlers along the banks of the Kennebec River, below Anson, secured their titles to the land that they settled upon from the Proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase, of the Colony at New Plymouth, to whom Bradford assigned it in 1635, he receiving it by grant of "The Plymouth Council" in 1629.

Thus we have carefully traced the titles to the land in the lower Kennebec valley from

their source to individual claims, and here we beg leave to stop, and to briefly notice the sources from which individuals procured their titles, who live in the upper part of the valley.

We have stated that the grandson of Sir Ferdinando Gorges sold to Massachusetts the Gorges claim west of the Kennebec River. When that colony received its royal charter, in 1691, the whole territory in the northern part of the Kennebec valley passed under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts.

That State needing money in 1786, sold a large tract of land in the northern part of the valley to William Bingham. It was divided into two lots, containing one million acres each. The western lot was bounded as follows: The southern line of the Bingham Purchase was twelve miles north of the northern line of the Bradford claim; or, in other words, it was the same as the southern line of the town of Bingham. It extended east from the Kennebec River, following the southern line of the town of Bingham, to the western line of the town of Wellington; thence north to the northern line of Range Seven; thence west to the eastern line of Franklin County; thence southerly to the southwestern angle of Mt. Abram Township; thence east to the

river again, meeting the southern line of Bingham.

This was a part of the Bingham Purchase, which was sold to William Bingham by Massachusetts, in 1787.

That portion of this territory lying upon the western bank of the Kennebec River, and south of Dead River, was embraced within the Province of Maine, which was granted to Sir Ferdinando Gorges by King Charles, in 1639, and sold by the Gorges heirs to Massachusetts, in 1667. The part of the purchase lying upon the eastern bank of the river was within the Sagadahoc territory, which was granted by King Charles to his brother, who was at that time Duke of York, and, upon the death of Charles, succeeded him as King of England. That part of the Bingham Purchase which lay north of Dead River, and the whole territory lying between it and Canada line, was taken possession of by the heirs of Sir Ferdinando Gorges and deeded to Massachusetts Bay Colony with the original Province of Maine.

When the Sagadahoc territory was united with the Province of Maine in 1691, Massachusetts extended her jurisdiction over the whole territory, and so retained it until 1820, when the District of Maine became a State.

In conclusion we will say that several of the townships in the upper part of the valley were purchased of Massachusetts prior to 1820, by different individuals, but when Maine became an independent State, Massachusetts relinquished her claim upon the territory in the Kennebec valley, and many of the settlers in the northern part of the valley received a title to their land from the State Government.

## CHAPTER IV.

### SAGADAHOC COUNTY.

Sagadahoc County is the southern county in the valley. It embraces territory lying upon each bank of the river as far north as Richmond. The Sagadahoc tribe once owned and occupied a portion of this section. This county was formerly a part of Lincoln County, from which it was set off and incorporated in 1854. This county contains ten towns, having a population of nineteen thousand two hundred and seventy-six. Phipsburg, Bath, Topsham, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham and Richmond are upon the western shore; and Georgetown and Woolwich are situated upon

the eastern bank; while Arrowsic and Perkins are small islands in the Kennebec River.

We will give a brief compendium of their history.

*Phipsburg.* This town is situated upon the western bank of the river and is the southern town in the Kennebec valley. It was the site of the early settlement under Sir George Popham, in 1607. This was the first settlement that was made by the English in the valley; the settlement was made thirteen years before the landing of the Pilgrims at New Plymouth and at that time was the only settlement of Europeans north of Jamestown, Virginia.

Lord John Popham, the leading member of the Plymouth Association, was a man of wealth and great ability. Imbibing the spirit of discovery that was raging in England, at that time, he obtained permission of King James to plant a colony at any place he might choose upon the coast of New England. Accordingly, in the spring of 1607, two ships were fitted for a voyage to this region having on board one hundred colonists.

One of these ships was called the "The Gift of God" and placed under the command of Sir George Popham, a brother of Lord John Popham.

Raleigh Gilbert, a nephew of John Popham, was given charge of the other, which was called "The Mary and John." Besides the colonists a large supply of provisions and needful tools was taken. Some writers claim that there were three vessels in the expedition. It left Plymouth, England, the 31st of May, 1607, for a country that was inhabited only by the uncivilized savage; little did Captain George Popham realize as he sailed from England that before another New Year's sun should rise he would be laid beneath the sands of a foreign shore.

On the morning of the 4th of August, they came in sight of a headland which they thus described; "The cape is lowland, showing white sand; but yet it is all white rocks and a strong tide goeth in there." [Abbott.] We think that this headland was Cape Small Point, which is the extreme southwestern terminus of the town of Phipsburg.

Keeping outside of this point of land they took a course from Monhegan Island and cast anchor near Pemaquid Point. After exploring this section and finding no convenient place to locate, Captain Popham decided that they had better enter the Kennebec. Accordingly they made sail for the mouth of the river and about the middle of August, 1607,

Popham's expedition entered the Kennebec River and cast anchor near the upper end of Spinney's Island. It was evening; the sun was sinking below the western horizon, and the passengers aboard the vessels began to prepare for a night's rest, intending the next morning to look for a place where they might locate and begin to make preparations for the coming winter.

The next morning was bright and clear and Captain Popham with thirty men and Captain Gilbert with about the same number ascended the river in small boats in search of a place to locate. During the day they explored the river as far as Merry-Meeting Bay, and finding no place which they judged more convenient than the one before them upon Phipsburg shore they returned to the vessels. The next morning all hands went on shore and went to work with a will. Besides building about fifty log cabins, they erected a fort, a store-house, and built a small vessel, which they named "The Virginia of Sagadahoc." This was the first vessel built by Europeans in New England. Captain George Popham was elected Governor of the settlement, which took the name of "The Sagadahoc Colony." Winter came at last and storms of sleet and snow swept down upon the little colony; their

cabins were not as warm as they should have been, they had nothing but green wood to burn, and having a scanty supply of provisions, they suffered much from cold and hunger during the winter. Disease came in among them, and among its victims was Governor Popham; his last words were, "I die content. My name will be always associated with the first planting of the English race in the New World. My remains will not be neglected away from the homes of my fathers and my kindred." [Abbott.] No loving hand conveyed his remains to his native land; his body was laid beneath the sands of the ocean shore, and after the lapse of nearly three hundred years we look in vain for his sepulchre or resting place.

There was no one left in the little colony capable of filling Governor Popham's position and, becoming discouraged, they returned to England the following spring.

In the year 1716, there was a settlement of fishermen established upon the site which was chosen by Governor Popham for his colony. This second colony was founded by one of the proprietors of the "Pejepscott Purchase" to which Phipsburg belonged. This settlement was named Augusta. It was broken up and several of the inhabitants were

killed by the Indians in the summer of 1722.

The first permanent settlement was made in the town about the middle of the eighteenth century. The first meeting-house built in town was at Phipsburg Center. Parson Emerson was the minister. The men would take their loaded guns to church in those days for fear of being surprised by parties of Indians that were prowling about through the forests.

William Butler was among the early settlers of the town.

Phipsburg was named in honor of Sir William Phipps, who was appointed Governor of Massachusetts in 1692. Phipps was a resident of the town of Woolwich.

*Bath.* This town is situated upon the western bank of the Kennebec River; Phipsburg's northern line is the southern boundary of Bath. This town was visited in 1605 by Captain Weymouth.

The historian gives the following description of this section at that time: "In our march we passed over very good ground, pleasant and fertile, fit for pasture, having but little wood, and that oak. Upon the hills grew noted trees, masts for ships of four hundred tons." [Abbott.]

Such was the appearance of the site of the city of Bath, two hundred and eighty years ago. As early as 1640, Elder Robert Gutch, Alexander Thwart and Christopher Lawson settled in the town.

Bath was the first town that was incorporated under the royal charter of Massachusetts. Bath has been styled "The City of Ships." It received a city charter in 1847, and became the shire town of Sagadahoc County in 1854, when the county was incorporated.

*Bowdoinham.* This town lies upon the western shore of the Kennebec River and with the town Topsham, was claimed by Wharton, as belonging to his purchase.

In 1656, Alexander Thwart moved from Bath to this town. There was a small settlement at this time in the town, which was depopulated in King Philip's War. The town was resettled about the time that Fort Richmond was built. In 1774, Paul and Jethro Hatch purchased eight hundred acres of land in this town. The town was named in honor of William Bowdoin, by whom it was owned, at one time.

A noted sachem of the Kennebec tribe once lived in this town; the name of this great warrior was Abbigadassett. He was associated with Kennebis or the Bashaba in sell-

ing land to the English; and in 1667, they sold Swan Island to Humphrey Davie.

Richmond was formerly a part of this town.

*Richmond.* This is the northern town in the county, upon the western shore of the river. It was incorporated in 1823, and named the same as the fort which was built in the town in 1719. Fort Richmond was built about one mile above Richmond village upon the bank of the river. This town was called "White's Landing" in its earlier days. At the time Richmond was incorporated the village contained seven dwelling-houses, a small store and a blacksmith shop. Some of these old buildings are standing, though some of them have been moved from their original location and used for other purposes. Fort Richmond stood at the ferry above the village; this place was called "Parker's Ferry" in those days. Soon after the fort was built Governor Shirley met a number of the sachems of the Kennebec tribe at this place. The chief speaker among those defeated warriors thus addressed the governor: "Here is a river which belongs to us. You have lately built a new garrison here.

We now only ask that you will be contented to go no farther up the river than this fort. We live wholly by this land and live

but poorly. The Penobscot Indians hunt on one side of us, and the Canada Indians on the other. Therefore do not turn us off this land. We are willing that you should hold possession of all the lands from this fort downward to the sea." [Abbott.]

The governor would not listen to the plea of the poor Indian, but simply gave them to understand that the English claimed all the land in the valley of the Kennebec. The population of the town in 1880 was about two thousand and a half.

*Georgetown.* This is the southern town in the Kennebec valley, upon the eastern shore of the river. It is an island nine miles long and about two miles wide.

John Parker purchased the island of an Indian sachem by the name of Robinhood, in 1650; for payment he gave the dusky warrior one hogshead of rum and a few pumpkins. The Indian name of the island was "Rascohegan."

Phipsburg, Bath, Woolwich and Arrowsic were formerly embraced in this town. Settlements were made in this town as early as 1623, but were broken up in the Indian wars. The first permanent settlement in this town was made in 1730. Reverend Ezekiel Emerson resided in this town in its early history.

He was one of the first preachers of the "Gospel" in the Kennebec valley.

He died in 1815, after a long and faithful ministry. Mr. Emerson was a man of marked ability, a living example of Christianity, and loved and respected by all who knew him. His descendants are found among the business men of the valley. It was upon the western shore of this town that the ruler of the Kennebec tribe landed when on his visit to Popham's Colony, which was upon Phipsburg shore, and upon invitation of the Governor, the ruler crossed over.

It was upon these shores that Captain Weymouth captured the Indian braves; but forgetting all this, the ruler of the tribe bade Popham and his friends a hearty welcome. In the early history of the town a great many fishermen resided along its borders, but at present it is mostly given to agriculture.

*Woolwich.* John Brown and Edward Bateman began a settlement in this town as early as 1638. They bought the land of Robinhood, who dwelt in this town. The early inhabitants suffered much from the hostilities of the natives. Upon one occasion, a man by the name of Preble and his wife were killed by the Indians, and their children, three

in number, were taken prisoners and carried to Canada, but later they were returned to their grandfather, who lived in the town.

Sir William Phipps was born in this town in 1650; he was the youngest of twenty-six children. In 1692, he was appointed Governor of Massachusetts. The plantation name of the town was Nequasseag. It was incorporated in 1759.

*Arrowsic.* This historic spot is an island in the Kennebec River. Woolwich lies upon the eastern shore, and Phipsburg and Bath upon the western shore, while Arrowsic lies between them, encircled by the waters of the river. Tradition says that upon one occasion an Indian sachem lay dying from the effects of a wound caused by being hit by a poisoned arrow; when asked what was the trouble, the dying warrior replied, "I am arrow-sick," and in this answer originated the name of the town. It was at the head of this island that Captain Weymouth cast anchor when he explored the surrounding region. About the middle of the seventeenth century, Thomas Clark and Roger Spencer purchased the island of Robinhood. A blockhouse was built by them, and a few settlers gathered around it.

During the Indian war of 1675, the settlers were all driven from the island and the buildings were laid in ashes. It was re-settled in about 1700, and upon the breaking out of Lovell's war with the Indians there were about twenty-six families upon the island. In the spring of 1722 there was a band of soldiers stationed upon this island to protect the inhabitants against the hostilities of the Indians. In the fall of the year of 1722, the Indians made an attack upon Arrowsic; the people took refuge in the block-house or fort and the Indians after setting fire to the houses left the island.

The ruins of the old fort may be seen today. There are about two hundred and fifty inhabitants in the town at the present time.

*Perkins.* This town is also an island, or rather it embraces two small islands in the river, about four miles north of Merry-Meeting Bay. The largest one is about five miles long and one mile in breadth. It will be better known as Swan Island. The other one contains about forty acres, and is noted as being the place chosen by the rulers of the Kennebec tribe for their abode; this spot we will also call Swan-island, but if the reader will notice, when reference is made to this spot it will be written as follows: Swan-island,

when reference is made to the main island or Perkins proper, we will write it Swan Island.

Swan-island lies about twenty-five miles from the sea. The first mention of this island that we find is in connection with the early settlement of Popham's at the mouth of the river, in 1607.

The Bashaba upon learning of the landing of the English upon Phipsburg shore decided to make them a friendly visit, and if possible live peaceably with them.

After the little colony had got nicely settled in their new home, this great ruler, accompanied by a large body of armed warriors, went down the river to wait upon Governor Popham. The Bashaba, with his retinue, landed upon the bank of the river directly opposite the settlement and sent two of his chief attendants across the river to request an interview with Governor Popham. The chieftain was invited over, and received with all honors due his position. After spending a day at the settlement, this great ruler returned to his abode upon Swan-island. It is said that this ruler was ever afterwards a friend to the English. It is supposed that Captain Smith visited this ruler in 1814. In his account he is mentioned as Kennebecca. In 1692, Captain Church had a battle with the

Indians upon Swan-island, but they were obliged to leave the island. Church pursued them as far as Taconnet, but upon arriving at this point he found it vacated. The terror-stricken Indian had taken to the forests which at that time lined the banks of the river above Waterville.

The site of this ancient palace of the Bashaba upon Swan-island can be seen to-day. It has been described in the first chapter of this book. And now we will take our leave of the home of Kennebis, and notice the early history of Swan Island, or the town of Perkins.

This island is in reality the town of Perkins. It was a part of the Kennebec Purchase. There were a few families located upon the island about 1750. The name of one family was Noble; they were taken to Canada by the Indians during the French War.

About 1760, the father of Jacob Barker settled upon the lower end of the island and built a framed house which is standing to-day in good condition. Previous to 1796, Geo. Harward, a wealthy resident of Massachusetts, purchased Barker's claim upon Swan Island and gave it to his grandson, Geo.

Harward, who was at that time about twenty-one years old. Young Harward settled upon the island in 1796, and lived upon the island nearly seventy years. The Harwards are among the leading citizens of Bowdoinham and Richmond.

In the year 1800, Paul Hatch settled upon the island. About the same year Holder Tallman came from New Hampshire and settled in the town. The population of the town in 1880 was seventy-eight.

## CHAPTER V.

### KENNEBEC COUNTY.

A large part of Kennebec County was within the limits of the grant of the old "Plymouth Council" to William Bradford in 1629.

The Kennebec River divides the county into two sections; about one-third of its territory lies upon its eastern shore of the river. Swan Island is in this county, but it has long since ceased to be the abode of the ruler of the Kennebec tribe. This county was formerly a part of Lincoln County, which was set off

from the county of York in 1760, and embraced nearly all the territory within the District of Maine that was north of the Androscoggin and all the territory lying east of the Kennebec River. Kennebec County was incorporated in 1799. Besides its present territory, it embraced Somerset County and part of Waldo, Franklin, Androscoggin, Piscataquis and Aroostook counties. Kennebec County is well adapted to agriculture; the soil is, for the greater part, clay loam and in its natural fertility is equalled by no other county in the valley. It is also well populated. This county contains twenty-four towns, three cities and one plantation, having a population of fifty-three thousand. The county seat is at Augusta.

*Pittston.* Pittston is the southern town in the county upon the east side of the river. This town formerly included Gardiner and West Gardiner. The first settler within the limits of this town was Alexander Brown, who settled in the town about 1670. Brown built a log house, cleared a piece of ground fit for tillage and did quite a business in procuring sturgeons for the London market. During the war of 1675, he was killed by the Indians and his house was burned.

Nearly a century passed before another attempt was made by the whites to settle in the town. In 1760, a number of families moved from Portland to this town; among them were Benjamin Fitch, Jonas Winslow and William Philbrick, and a permanent settlement was established. This town was within the limits of the Kennebec Purchase and received its name from Hon. William Pitts, who was one of the proprietors.

*Chelsea.* This town is situated upon the eastern bank of the river and lies between Pittston and Augusta. The early history of this town is in connection with that of the town of Hallowell, of which it formed a part until 1850, when it was set off and incorporated under its present name. Its surface is somewhat broken, yet the soil is very productive.

*Augusta.* This town is about equally divided by the Kennebec River, although the main part of the city is upon the west side. Augusta was ever a noted place; it is situated at the head of navigation upon the Kennebec River. It was the home of the ancient Cushnocks, a family of the Kennebec tribe. In 1630, the Pilgrim Colony at Plymouth erected a trading house at this place and quite a lucrative trade was carried on with the Indians,

and it has ever since been the center of trade in the valley. The whites began to settle at this place soon after the erection of the trading-house.

When government was first established in the Kennebec valley, the inhabitants of the place were required to take the oath of fidelity to the Government of England. The oath was administered in 1653 by Thomas Prince; below we will give a copy:

"You shall be true and faithful to the State of England as it is now established; and, whereas you choose to reside within the Government of New Plymouth, you shall not do, nor cause to be done, any act or acts directly or indirectly, by land or water, that shall or may tend to the destruction or overthrow of the whole or part of this Government, orderly erected or established; but shall otherwise hinder or oppose such intents and purposes as tend thereunto, and discover them to those who are in place for the time being, that the Government may be informed thereof with all convenient speed. You shall also submit to and observe all such good and wholesome laws, ordinances and officers as are or shall be established within the several limits thereof. So help you God, who is the God of truth and punisher of falsehood." [Abbott.]

In the second Indian War the place was laid waste by the natives and so remained until about 1713, when Doctor Noyes erected a stone fort at this point, which was at that time the strongest fortification upon the river. In Lovell's War the fort was destroyed by the Indians and the place was again depopulated. It remained desolate for about a quarter of a century, when Fort Western was erected by the Plymouth Company and James Howard was given command; therefore, Howard is considered as the first permanent settler in the town. The building that was used as a storehouse and for barracks in connection with the fort is still standing below the bridge upon the east side of the river. It is one hundred feet long and about thirty feet wide; the walls of the building are about sixteen feet high and are built of round logs about twelve inches in diameter. The roof is of modern architecture. The building is occupied as a dwelling-house. The territory comprising this town was set off from Hallowell and incorporated in 1796, taking the name of Harrington. Soon afterward the name was changed to Augusta. Previous to the incorporation it was known as "The Fort" by the early settlers in the valley. Augusta became the shire-town of Kennebec County in 1799. The seat of govern-

ment was established at this place in 1831; Augusta obtained a city charter in 1849.

*Vassalboro'*. This town began to be settled as early as 1760. It embraced at that time the territory which forms the town of Sidney. Among the early settlers were Dennis and John Gatchell. Fort Halifax had been erected at Winslow about eighteen miles north of Fort Western: besides this no attempt had been made to settle the region above Augusta.

The Gatchells were from Cape Cod, and from thence came many of the early settlers in the town. From Fort Western John and Dennis Gatchell came up the river in a small boat till within about three miles of Fort Halifax, when they stopped upon the east shore of the river and commenced to prepare an abode in the wilderness, which, at that time, formed what is to-day the wealthy town of Vassalboro'.

Together they soon erected a log house in which they lived until better and more convenient ones could be built. Other families soon came and settled around them, and in 1768 there were ten families in the town.

Vassalboro' was first represented in the Provincial Congress in 1775 by Remington Hobby. Dennis Gatchell was "Captain of the town" in 1774. John and Dennis Gatchell

were guides to Arnold's army up the river and across to the Canadian border. John Gatchell was an active business man in those days. His sons were William, John, Abial and Henry. Three of the sons settled in the town and became prominent citizens. John Gatchell, Jr., and his father were associated in business until about 1800, when John bought a large portion of the property owned by his father, and large tracts of land of other individuals until at one time John Gatchell, Jr., owned a large part of the land in the town. He also kept a store at Gatchell's Corner and carried on an extensive trade with the early settlers far and near. We find an account between him and Stephen Chamberlain of Solon, and individuals in nearly every town between Carratunk Falls and the ocean. We have at hand a deed in which he conveyed a tract of land to Edward Southwick of Danvers, Massachusetts. In the winter of 1806–7 Gatchell did quite a business by way of lumbering in the town. An abstract from his journal will convey to the reader the appearance of the town in those days.

"John Gatchell, Jr., bought of Heman Clark, Geo. Nowell and William Bradford, Jr., twenty-nine tons pine lumber at Backmill, so called, and twenty-eight tons of oak,

and paid as follows: to each his third part, namely, to Heman Clark I gave my note payable the first of June next for thirty-six dollars and twenty-eight cents. To William Bradford my note payable June 16th for the same amount. To Geo. Nowell I gave up three notes for eleven dollars and thirty-five cents each, and endorsed two dollars and twenty-three cents on another note which I held against him."

This trade was made in the fall of 1806. The lumber was bought by Gatchell upon the stump and cut and hauled to the Kennebec River during the following winter.

By "Backmill" is meant the mills at the outlet of China Lake or East Vassalboro'. These mills were formerly owned by John Gatchell, Senior. We also find the following in John Gatchell's day book.

"Jan. 9, 1807. Have now about four inches of snow; good logging on Abial Gatchell's land."

"Jan. 25, about twenty inches of snow.

" 31, rainy.

Feb 1, rainy.

" 2, cloudy, the snow is nearly all gone; bad for the timber cutters at Backmill."

In 1815, he sold the home lot to Edward Southwick, who afterward with his brother

Joseph carried on an extensive business in the town. The "Vassalborough Woolen Mills" now stand upon the lot occupied by the tannery which was owned by the Southwicks.

Samuel and Asa Redington from Boxford, Massachusetts, settled in the town at an early date. A large portion of the early inhabitants in the town belonged to the society of Friends. They built a house for worship at Gatchell's Corner as early as 1790. This people have always been a peculiar people, zealous of good works. At the opening of the present century there were dwelling in the town a great number of people who represented the various trades and professions of life. There was at the outlet of China Lake (or "Twelve Mile Pond," as it was called a century ago), a set of mills in which were facilities for grinding corn and wheat, sawing lumber, fulling cloth, etc. This place was called Backmill. The business center of the town was at Gatchell's Corner, which was for nearly half a century the great emporium of trade north of Augusta.

In 1812, the Congregationalist Society built a meeting-house about two miles below Gatchell's Corner. Reverend Thomas Adams was for many years the pastor. Parson

Adams will ever be remembered as a faithful minister, a devoted Christian, and equalled by few, and excelled by none, in his ardent labors for the promotion of temperance.

Hannah Starr organized a Sabbath school at the Corner in 1810. Deacons Robinson and Hawes deserve mention in this connection. Joseph Abbott was a prominent and successful teacher in the town in its early days.

The Sturgis farm is among the best in town. It was settled by those of the name at an early date. Jonas Priest was among the first settlers in the town; the house he built is still standing and occupied by Theodore Priest. The town has ever been noted for its wealth and the frugality of its inhabitants

*Winslow.* This town is north of Vassalboro', upon the same side of the river. The Sebasticook River flows through the town. Waterville was formerly included in this town. At this place dwelt the Tacconnets, a sub-tribe of the Kennebecs. Here dwelt the sachem Assiminasqua, the chief speaker in the Kennebec councils. In 1754, five hundred troops were sent up the Kennebec River to explore the carrying place between that river and the Chaudiere. The object of this

movement was to build a fortification in the northern Kennebec valley. It was decided best to erect a fort upon the north bank of the Sebasticook River, near its junction with the Kennebec. A part of the building is still standing and may be seen from the car window as you ride through the town.

The fort was built of solid timber, twenty feet in height, and having room enough within its walls to accommodate a garrison of four hundred men. The name given to this fortification was Fort Halifax. Fort Western, at Augusta, was built the same year by the proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase. Fort Shirley was built in Dresden at the same time.

It will be remembered that Fort Western was at the head of navigation upon the Kennebec River. From Fort Western to Fort Halifax was a distance of eighteen miles, and at that time it was a dense wilderness between them. The Government ordered a road cut through this section and made passable for wheel carriages.

Arrangements were made so that an express could be carried from Falmouth (Portland) to Fort Halifax. The express was carried from Portland to Fort Halifax by means of small boats, taking forty-eight hours to make the round trip. While they were building the

fort, one man was killed by the Indians, and four more were taken prisoners and carried to Canada.

About 1761, eleven families settled around the fort. Among those were the names of Harwood, Bradford, Delano, etc. The town was named in honor of Capt. John Winslow.

*Gardiner.* This is the southern town in the county upon the west side of the river. Its territory was set off from Pittston in 1804, and incorporated under its present name. The town was named in honor of Dr. Sylvester Gardiner, its founder. In 1760, Dr. Gardiner erected a mill at the mouth of the Cobbosseecontee, and there was a flourishing settlement begun at once; and by the year 1800, there were about six hundred inhabitants in the town.

Robert H. Gardiner has occupied a prominent position in the business interests of the town. Williamson speaks of this town as follows: "There is no town in the State that can exhibit such a variety of mills, machinery and other mechanical improvements."

*Hallowell.* This town is situated upon the same side of the river as Gardiner. It received its name in honor of Benjamin Hallowell, one of the proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase.

Deacon Clark is recorded as the first settler; his log cabin was built upon the spot now occupied by the City Hall. The territory now covered by the city of Augusta was once included in this town. This place was once called "The Hook," to distinguish it from the settlement at "The Fort," as that was called which was around Fort Western.

*Sidney.* This town was set off from Vassalboro' in 1792.

There were settlements made along the river as early as 1761, and at Snow's Pond about the same time. The Sawtelles were among the early settlers.

The Baptists early formed a society in this town. Reverend Asa Wilbur was pastor for many years; he also represented the town in the Legislature one term. Mr. Wilbur's ancestors were among the first settlers in what is now the city of Boston.

Agriculture is the leading business of the town, to which the soil is well adapted.

*Waterville.* This town was taken from Winslow in 1802; the Kennebec River was the dividing line. At this time there were but a few houses upon the west side of the river.

It is to-day the most flourishing town in the valley. It has no history connected with the settlement of the English, prior to the begin-

ning of the present century; but its Indian history is unsurpassed by any town in the valley.

Here dwelt the great orator of the Kennebec tribe. The fierce warrior Bomazeen, dwelt at this place a large portion of his time; and the Bashaba, when obliged to vacate his seat upon Swan Island, removed to this place; and as we are writing these words, relics are being unearthed, which convey to us that here was the place where the tribe laid their brave warriors away to rest, when their life's work was done.

## CHAPTER VI.

### SOMERSET COUNTY.

This is the northern county in the valley. It was incorporated in 1809; prior to that it was embraced within the limits of Kennebec County.

The entire population of the county in 1880 was about thirty-three thousand. Skowhegan is the shire-town. A large portion of its territory is covered by forests. The Kennebec River takes its rise in this county; also several other large rivers take their origin in

this section. We have been informed that there is a place in the northern part of Somerset County where a man can lie with his feet in the headwaters of the Androscoggin and drink from a spring, the water of which reach Moose Head Lake, the great fountain of the Kennebec River.

In the following pages we will notice the early history of the different towns in the county which are situated along the banks of the Kennebec; as it was the custom of the first settlers to locate upon the river's bank, as the river was their only highway through the wilderness which, but a century ago, covered this territory.

*Skowhegan.* The town of Skowhegan, Canaan, Fairfield, and that portion of the present town of Skowhegan which was formerly known as Bloomfield, was all embraced within the limits of Canaan, as it was called in its early history. This blooming section was within the boundaries of the Kennebec Purchase. The valley had become peopled from the ocean to Ticonnet, but here the tide seemed to stop. No one dared to penetrate the wilderness of Somerset County and locate north of Fort Halifax.

About the year 1770, the Kennebec Company made a special offer to those who would

settle upon their land north of the Sebasticook.

Accordingly, Peter Harwood of Concord, Massachusetts, secured a large tract of land upon the west bank of the Kennebec River north of Waterville. Peter Harwood was a son of John Harwood, who was in Lovewell's fight with the Indians, in the western part of the State of Maine.

"With Lovewell brave, John Harwood came
From wife and babes 'twas hard to part;
Young Harwood took her by the hand
And bound the weeper to his heart.

Repress that tear, my Mary dear,
Said Harwood to his loving wife;
It tries me hard to leave thee here
And seek in distant woods the strife.

When gone, my Mary, think of me,
And pray to God, that I may be
Such as one ought that lives for thee,
And come at last in victory.

Thus left young Harwood babes and wife;
With accent wild she bade adieu,
It grieved those lovers much to part,
So proud and fair, so kind and true.

John Harwood died all bathed in blood,
When he had fought till set of day;
And many more we may not name,
Fell in the bloody fray.

When news did come to Harwood's wife,
That he with Lovewell fought and died,

Far in the wilds had given his life,
Nor more would in this home abide,

Such grief did seize upon her mind,
Such sorrow filled her faithful heart,
On earth she never found peace again
But followed Harwood to his rest."

There has been, and is at the present time, a difference in opinion as to the correct way of spelling the above name; some claim it to be spelled Harwood, others Heywood, others Howard and others Haywood; after much investigation we prefer Harwood and feel confident that it is the original way of spelling the name.

Peter Harwood and Joseph Weston accompanied by John Harwood, Isaac Smith, Eli Weston, started for the Kennebec. At Salem they shipped for Sequin, having on board twenty head of cattle and necessary supplies for such a voyage. From Sequin they came to Fort Halifax. At this place they remained during the winter, and in the spring of 1772 those men entered the land of Canaan, or Skowhegan, as it is now called.

Little do we realize the hardships that those men encountered in their journey from Concord to Skowhegan. At Salem they took ship, in which they reached Augusta at the head of navigation upon the Kennebec River;

from this point they continued their journey by land to Fort Halifax through the wilderness, arriving there late in the fall of 1771.

At the time that Harwood and Weston came to the town, the Kennebec valley above the Sebasticook River, or the settlement at Fort Halifax, presented a very different view from that which appears to-day. The blooming fields of Fairfield, Bloomfield and Skowhegan were covered with forests of evergreen. Where stands the quiet homestead, the Indian built his wigwam; instead of the lambs that play upon the hills, the wild deer bounded.

Civilization had reached as far as Winslow, and here it seemed to stop, waiting, as it were, for brave-hearted men like Harwood and Weston to penetrate the unbroken wilderness of the upper Kennebec.

They erected a log cabin upon their lot, and went to work preparing a spot of ground for a crop of potatoes and corn; the seed they obtained at Gatchell's Corner, in Vassalboro'. They picked up a few hundred weight of hay upon the islands and intervals around them. But they could not winter any stock the following winter on account of the moose destroying their hay stack. After haying was over, Joseph Weston and John Harwood returned to Massachusetts. Peter Harwood

soon followed them, leaving Eli Weston and Isaac Smith to finish harvesting the crops. These two boys, aged sixteen and eleven, remained through the winter in their cabin, which was seventeen miles from any white settlers. At that time there were a few Indians roving through this region.

The families of Harwood and Weston came to the town after the close of the Revolutionary War.

The children of Peter Harwood were Peter, born in Concord in 1753, and died in 1822; Sarah, born in 1754, married Oliver Wilson of Starks; Asa, born in 1756, died in infancy; Hannah, born in 1755, married Isaac Smith; John, who came with his father to Skowhegan, and stayed through one winter and returned to Concord, Massachusetts, having got enough of pioneer life.

Peter Harwood, Sen., built a dwelling-house upon Skowhegan Island in about 1790. He died in 1803, aged seventy-seven years. His widow was Joseph Weston's sister, who lived to be nearly one hundred years of age.

Joseph Cleveland came to Skowhegan in about 1778; near this date James Fairbrother settled in the town. James was born in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1767. He married Re-

becca Moore, a sister to Major Joseph Moore, who settled in Madison.

Their children were Reuben, James, Ithamar, Betsy, Rebecca, Catherine and Celia.

James Fairbrother died in 1847; his wife Rebecca died in 1839, aged seventy years.

Seth Wyman was among the early settlers in this vicinity. This settlement was first called Harwood's town. In 1783 a warrant was issued for a town meeting, bearing the date of "Howard's Town or Canaan." Peter Harwood, Sen., was chosen a delegate to Portland to atted the convention held in 1787, to consider the question of separation from Massachusetts. The first town meetings were held in Peter Harwood's house.

Reverend Asa Wilbur of Sidney preached in the town in its early days; also Joseph Merrill was among the early preachers in the town. Joshua Goodridge settled within these limits as early as 1788. Goodrich afterward removed to Bingham and his descendants are among the prominent members of the town of Bingham to-day.

In 1792, James Malbon built a mill upon Wessurunsitt Stream; it has retained the name of "Malbon's Mills." The property is in good repair to-day.

As we are about to leave this section, we will say that the Skowhegan of to-day includes the territory that once comprised the town of Bloomfield. Fairfield is a town independent from the others, and there is a a small town which retains the name of this blooming region, namely, Canaan, but in the early history of this town, instead of flowing with milk and honey, it flowed with rum and molasses. But there has been a radical change upon this point within a few years. It is to-day inhabited by a temperate and industrious people. The soil is very fertile, and the crops that are raised are equally as good as are grown in other towns in the valley.

*Norridgewock.* This town is eighty-two miles from the sea, and is the northern town in the Kennebec Patent. The town is divided into two sections by the Kennebec River. In the year 1769, the Kennebec Company advertised to give away some land upon the north side of the river in this town. The rule adopted by the company was to give away two lots containing one hundred acres each, and reserve two, thus hoping to induce persons to settle in this vicinity and thereby increase the value of the lots that were reserved.

William Fletcher of Concord, Massachusetts, with his family, came to this town in 1773, and took up the farm that has since been occupied by John R. Pooler. Mr. Fletcher lived upon this place until 1790. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War all the settlers north of Fort Halifax became alarmed for their safety and returned to Concord, Massachusetts, William Fletcher and two or three families that had settled around him excepted.

Here they were, left alone in a dreary wilderness, twenty-five miles from Fort Halifax. Upon the trail of the Indians as they passed from Canada to the sea and in danger of being taken prisoners by them and carried to Canada or killed and scalped in their cabins, seemed to be enough to unnerve the bravest heart. But William Fletcher was not a man to give up at trifles; he had entered the wilderness to begin the settlement of a large county that was then uninhabited by the white man, and he felt that much, *very much* depended upon his perseverance. He encouraged the discouraged, he cheered the drooping heart, and he always had a kind word for those around him.

As we commence to record the doings of this bold adventurer, language is not at our

command to describe the hardships that he endured and the many perils that he encountered during the first few years that he dwelt in the county. Fletcher, upon being deserted by nearly all his neighbors, gathered the remaining ones together and proposed to them the idea of building a fort or wall that would protect them from being surprised and taken by the Indians. The plan was readily endorsed by his friends, and the work was at once begun.

From the surrounding forest they cut trees that were about eight inches in diameter; those they set in an upright position around Mr. Fletcher's house, thus forming a fort, the walls being about twenty feet high, this being about the length that the pickets were made. Within those walls to Fletcher's log cabin they retired at night, and in times of danger until the close of the war, when there was no need of such precautions.

After peace had been restored many of the settlers returned, and the wilderness in the town of Norridgewock soon began to blossom with many productive farms.

William Fletcher of Concord, Massachusetts, was the first permanent settler in Somerset County.

William Fletcher married Sarah Parritt of Concord, Massachusetts. Their children were Amos, William; Thomas, drowned in Moose River in 1800; Asa, Dorcas, Sarah, Polly and Lucy. The last three were born in Somerset County, the others in Concord, Massachusetts.

Sarah Fletcher was born in August, 1774, and was, beyond all controversy, the first white girl born in Somerset County. Sarah married Amos Heald.

Amos Fletcher was a prominent business man in Norridgewock in its early history. Oliver Wood raised the first bushel of grain in town. Prominent among the early settlers in this town were William Warren, John Clark, Abel Farrington and Joel Crosby.

Nathan Parlin was among the early inhabitants of the town; he enlisted with Arnold as a boatman and went through to Canada. The leading industry of the town in 1789 was the manufacture of potash, which the inhabitants carried to Hallowell in canoes.

The first framed house that was built in Somerset County was erected in this town by Doctor Zebulon Gilman. The Norridgewogs, a branch of the Kennebec tribe, dwelt at this place in "ye olden time." Indian relics are being found, even at the present time.

The land is easily worked and well adapted to the raising of cultivated fruit. A century ago the population of the town was about one hundred; to-day it is nearly two thousand.

*Madison.* This town is situated upon the east bank of the Kennebec River. The original township is north of the Kennebec Patent. This territory was once owned by three men, the principal owner being Barnard. The plantation name of Madison was "Barnard's Town." It received its present name from the president of the same name. There was a strip of land one and one-half mile wide lying between the south line of this town and the north line of the town of Norridgewock. This piece of land belonged to the Kennebec Patent; it would be fifteen miles long upon each side of the river, and one and one-half mile wide. This strip was left after the northern tier of towns was laid out by the proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase. Upon this strip was "Old Point," which was the sacred vale of the Norridgewogs. There was a settlement made upon this strip of land and in the north-west corner of Madison about the same time, and as the mile-and-a-half strip, so called, is within the boun-

daries of the town of Madison, we will notice this settlement first.

The Kennebec Company, having disposed of nearly all their lands, offered to give away a tier of lots upon the mile-and-a-half strip, of what is now the Burns neighborhood, in the southern part of the town of Madison and about three miles east of the Kennebec River.

The first settlers upon the mile-and-a-half strip were Major Joseph Moore, Dougal McPhearson, Isaac McKenney, Thomas Whitcomb, Cyrus Wellington, Jonathan Russell, Andrew Russell, Magnus Beckey and Josiah Nutting.

Those persons were nearly all in the Revolutionary War, and came to this section soon after its close. Major Joseph Moore settling with them and being a prominent man among them, we will call this settlement the Moore's Settlement.

Major Moore married Rachel Brown of Townsend, Massachusetts. Below we are permitted to give a copy of a letter that Mrs. Moore received from her mother. The letter was addressed to "Joseph Moore,

Seven Mile Brook."

It read as follows:

TOWNSEND, August 9, 1790.

I take this opportunity to write to you to inform you that I am well through the goodness of Almighty God. and I hope you enjoy the same inestimable blessing. which is to be esteemed equal to any temporal blessing. As you informed me of in the letter I received from you the 30 of July, dated June 21st, it is not likely that your brothers will come to see you very soon, for Boas has let himself for three years, and Simon carries on my place. Therefore he cannot well come. I am glad to hear you are likely to raise your bread; it gives me great satisfaction. * * * * * Your brothers and your sister Elizabeth are well.

I have a good prospect of having a more comfortable supply of the necessaries of this life than I have had for many years. * * * * * I have nothing strange to write at present but must subscribe myself your loving mother till death.

SARAH BROWN.

P. S. Simon desires to be remembered to you, and wishes to know whether you like your pine apple as well as you did the common apple of this country."

The children of Joseph and Rachel Moore were:

Sally, born in 1786;
Polly, born in 1788;
Luther, born about 1790;
John B., born in 1792;
Joseph, born in 1794;
Aaron, born in 1796.

The above dates are very nearly correct. It has been no easy task to get them, and if they are not exactly right we would ask for a correction, which would be thankfully received by the writer.

Major Joseph Moore died in 1804. In 1806 his widow married Nicholas Durrill.

About 1815, Durrill died, and in 1820 the widow married Roger Chase.

About 1830, Mrs. Chase died. Her resting place is in the town of Bingham.

Mary Moore, a sister to Major Joseph Moore, married Dougal McPhearson. Their children were Paul, Mary, Rhoda, Anna, Europe and Asa. Dougal McPhearson died about 1813; his widow died about 1833.

Anna McPhearson married Ambros Colby. Their children were Betsy, John, Ambros and Sumner.

Paul McPhearson married Charlotte Butterfield of Sidney. Paul was in the United States' Service in 1812.

Rhoda McPhearson married Amos Payne.

Alice Moore, a sister to Major Joseph Moore, married Isaac McKenney. The house that McKenney built upon his lot is still standing, and is occupied by Mr. Samuel Burns.

Isaac McKenney and wife died in Carmel, about 1845.

Luther Moore married Hannah Baker.

Aaron Moore married Esther Nutting.

John B. Moore married Malinda Spaulding, daughter of Josiah and Sybil Spaulding, of Norridgewock. They had two sons, Orin and Abel. Orin Moore was born in 1818; Abel Moore was born in 1820.

Malinda Moore died in 1822.

J. B. Moore married for his second wife Sally Holden, daughter of Samuel and Jane Holden, of Moose River Plantation.

Mrs. Moore died Apr. 28, 1852.

Mr. Moore died Oct. 25, 1855.

Abel Moore was drowned in Moose River, 1848.

Thomas Whitcomb lived upon the mile-and-a-half strip about five years; he afterwards sold his claim to Mr. Russell. Joshua Burns resides upon the McPhearson lot.

Samuel Burns owns the lot that Isaac McKenney improved; also a part of the lot that Major Joseph Moore settled upon.

Sally Moore, daughter of Joseph and Rachel Moore, married Abel Nutting in 1802. Their children were Sally, Anna, Abel, Seth, John, Eliza, Almira and Jewett.

Sally Nutting died in 1853.

Andrew Russell lived in this settlement. He was six years and a half in the service; was twice wounded; after his discharge he came to Madison. He married Rebecca Nutting.

Captain John Burns came from New Bedford; He married Mary Gray. Capt. Burns was an energetic, business man.

Josiah Nutting, Jonathan Russell, Cyrus Wellington and Magnus Beckey, were among the first settlers in this vicinity.

Oliver Harwood settled upon the mile-and-a-half strip in 1777; he settled near "Old Point." Oliver was a brother to Peter Harwood, who settled in Skowhegan.

David Danforth, David Young, Eben and John Hilton, came from Wiscasset in the spring of 1776. The Hiltons settled upon the west bank of the river just north of Patterson's Bridge, in the town of Anson.

David Danforth and David Young settled upon the east bank of the river, opposite the Hiltons. Danforth and Young were in the north-western part of the town of Madison.

The nearest mill for grinding corn at that time was at Gardiner; the journey had to be made in a canoe. The nearest store was at Gatchell's Corner, which was about forty miles by way of the river.

These four families were alone in the wilderness. They were there but a few years when several families had settled around them. Benjamin Thompson came soon after David Danforth and Young had got nicely settled. Benjamin seems to have been distinguished for his poetic ability. In his journal we find the following verse:

"Benjamin Thompson is my name,
And English is my nation;
Seven-mile Brook is my dwelling place,
And Christ is my salvation."

Again he says:

"This was written in 1792, with Indian paint. I wrote these lines."

In the spring of 1799, Jediah Hayden made a small clearing in the eastern part of the town of Madison, upon the shore of a beautiful pond which is known to-day as Hayden Lake. The next summer Hayden moved his family to the town.

In 1812 Jediah Hayden purchased one thousand acres of land, extending across Merrill's Flats.

There were seven brothers by the name of Hayden, who settled in the town of Madison, about the beginning of the present century.

The shore of Hayden Lake was a favorite resort of the Kennebec Indian in the olden

time. There is a beautiful spot upon the western shore of the lake which was once known as "The Indian Camping Ground." Upon this magnificent spot William Hayden has erected several beautiful cottages and a large and commodious hall.

Col. Nathaniel Blackwell settled in the town at an early day.

William Sally, Daniel Reed, Ebenezer Dean, were also among the early inhabitants of the town.

Mr. Dinsmore Cleveland resides in the town at the present time. We will give a brief record of the name. In 1635 Moses Cleveland came from Ipswich, England, to America and from him all the Clevelands in the United States date their origin. Joseph Cleveland, the fourth generation from Moses, married Dorothy Craigin of Acton, Massachusetts. They came to Somerset County in 1778, and settled in what is now the town of Skowhegan.

Their son Joseph married Susan Steward. Their son Joseph married Olive Steward.

Joseph and Olive were the parents of Dinsmore Cleveland.

Levi James Merrill was among the prominent citizens of the town.

Upon the early records of the town we find the following:

"By virtue of the power and authority vested in me, the subscriber, as one of the Justices of the Peace, within and for the county of Kennebec, by a law of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (an attested copy of which is hereunto annexed), I do by those presents, in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, require you to warn the inhabitants of said Madison, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the dwelling-house of Levi James Merrill, in said Madison, the sixteenth day of April next, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon; to choose all such officers as towns within the Commonwealth are by law required to choose in the month of March or April annually. Hereof fail not to make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon at or before the time of meeting. Given under my hand and seal, at Norridgewock, this *Thirty-First Day of March in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Four.*

WILLIAM JONES,

Justice of the Peace."

The town of Madison is noted for its healthful climate and the longevity of the inhabi-

tants, although the people that reside in this town have to yield to the claim of death at last. In a cemetery which is situated in a delightful spot near the center of the town, is a headstone bearing the following verse:

"Behold my friend as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I;
As I am now, soon you must be,
Prepare my friend to follow me."

The date upon the stone shows that the sleeper was an aged lady, who died in 1826.

There has been one family of twenty-five children raised in the town.

The population of the town is about one thousand and a half.

Farming and manufacturing of woolen goods is extensively carried on in the town at the present time.

*Solon.* This town is situated upon the east bank of the Kennebec River, next adjoining Madison upon the north. It was included within the Sagadahoc Territory; and in 1691 it passed under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts Bay. In 1792 this township was lotted out, the lots in the northern part containing twice as many acres as those in the southern part of the town. The name of the plantation was "Spaulding Town." In 1839 it was incorporated under its present

name. The first settlement was made in 1782.

The soil is well adapted to agriculture, and much of the land in the town is well improved.

The surface, back from the river, is somewhat broken.

Parkman Hill is the highest elevation of land in the town.

Fall Brook flows through the town, affording many powers, some of which are being used.

Carratunk Falls, on the Kennebec River, are one mile from Solon Village.

These falls afford the greatest power to be found at any one place upon the river. There is a natural fall of twenty feet, which by a dam may easily be raised to thirty feet, which would furnish about 5,500 horse power in the dryest season, or when the water is the lowest in the river. This power is at present unimproved.

William Hilton first began a clearing in the town. He came from Wiscasset to Solon in the spring of 1782, and worked a part of the summer. He cleared several acres of land upon the bank of the river and the island, and fitted it for a crop the next season; he also built a log house upon the lot. He and

his wife stayed at his brother's through the winter of 1782-3, in Anson.

It will be remembered that Eben and John Hilton settled just north of Patterson's Bridge in 1776.

In the spring of 1783, William Hilton and wife, and son David, moved to Solon. This was the first family that settled in the town.

William Hunnewell came the same spring, and began to improve the lot adjoining Hilton's upon the north.

William Hilton was born in Wiscasset in 1759. His wife, Catherine McKenney, was born in 1764. They were married in Wiscasset about 1780.

In the spring of 1782 Mr. Hilton and wife went up the Kennebec to Anson. Mrs. Hilton remained in Anson that summer and the following winter, and then moved to Solon.

Their children were David, born in Anson Sept. 10, 1782;

Hannah, born in Solon, Jan., 1784;

Martha, Mary, Jesse, Joshua, Nancy, Thomas, Olive, Unice, Helen, Daniel and Martha.

William Hilton made the first brick used in Solon. Some of them are in the house that he built, which is still standing.

William Hunnewell and wife moved to Solon in the spring of 1783. Phebe was their oldest child, and was the first child born in the town.

James Jewett came from Pepperell, Massachusetts, soon after. He settled back from the river about four miles. His son Sewall lived upon the farm several years.

Caleb Hobart located in the east part of the town. The first house that he built is still standing.

Caleb Hobart's wife died in Pepperell, Massachusetts, leaving him with a family of four children, namely: Caleb, Nehimiah, Daniel and Anna. At the time Caleb moved to Solon, Anna was but eleven years old. She cared for her brothers and father, although herself but a child, and many times she was obliged to seek counsel of the wife of Daniel Shed, who was at that time the nearest family to Caleb Hobart's; the distance between the families was two miles. This journey had to be made in the winter season upon snowshoes, as there was no road at that time. They were guided by spots that had been made upon the trees, which marked the way through the wilderness. When Anna Hobart became of age, she married Daniel Williams.

Luther Pierce settled in the north part of the town. He married Susannah Gray.

When Popham landed at the mouth of the Kennebec River, among the colonists was one family by the name of Pierce; this was the first record of the name in the Kennebec valley.

The Bosworths, Maynards, Frenches, Drurys, Chamberlains, were among the early settlers in the town.

In 1790, William Fletcher moved from Norridgewock to this town. Mr. Fletcher took charge of Buswell's Mill upon Fall Brook. The mill was fitted for grinding corn, and was a great convenience to the inhabitants in this section.

A story is told of a good father of the flock, who lived about twelve miles from the mill. Upon learning of the fact that Fletcher was prepared to do custom work, the parson placed a bushel of corn upon his shoulder and started for Buswell's Mill.

At last he reached the mill, the corn was ground and the elder took the meal and returned to his home, arriving quite early in the morning, having made the trip in twenty-four hours.

The parson invited in his neighbors to dine with him. "We've got a mill in our own door-

yard," quoth he. The early settlers had been accustomed to carrying their grain down the river to mill, and to have a mill that they could reach by land seemed to them a great treat.

The salmon were very plenty in the Kennebec River in those days. "Why, they were so plenty in the river at Carratunk Falls, that it would seem as though one could walk across the river upon them," says an early inhabitant.

In 1800, William Fletcher, Jr., and Amos Heald were drowned at the falls, while upon a hunting tour.

*Embden.* This town lies upon the west side of the Kennebec River. This territory was embraced in the grant which was made to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, by King Charles in 1639. When the Province was sold to Massachusetts, this territory passed into the possessions of that State.

The original name of this township was "Queenstown." It was incorporated in 1809, and at that time took the name of Embden. There are several large ponds in this town—Embden Pond, Fahi Pond, Johnson's Pond and others.

The first settler in town is believed to have been George Michael. Thomas McFadden of Georgetown settled in the town at an early date.

Captain John Gray settled in Embden about the close of the Revolutionary War. He married Elizabeth Boynton.

Their children were Rachel, Hannah, George, Joshua, Betsy; Martha, married Stephen Weston; Susannah, married Luther Pierce of Solon; John, Sally; Christianna, married Obed Wilson; Sally, Polly and Daniel.

In 1790, Benjamin Poor made a survey of this township and found the following persons residing in the town: Jacob Williams, Joseph Cook, Nath'l Martin, Samuel Fling, John Thompson, Moses Green, Thomas McFadden, John Gray and Benjamin Colby.

Jacob Williams owned a large tract of land at that time north of Carratunk Falls, upon the west side of the river. As he came to the town at an early date, and his descendants are numerous in this county, we will notice his family record.

Jacob Williams, a descendant of Roger Williams, was born in Barnstable, Massachusetts, Jan. 18, 1760. When nineteen years old he married Joanna Williams. In 1781, Jacob Williams with his wife and infant son left his native State and started for the Kennebec. They came to Augusta in a vessel that was coming to Fort Western with sup-

plies. At this point Mr. Williams obtained a small boat and a guide to take him up the river to such a point as he might choose to stop at.

Arriving at Carratunk Falls, Mr. Williams explored the region around these falls, and decided to locate just above them upon the west bank of the river. The spot chosen by Jacob Williams to build his cabin upon was a lovely interval containing about five acres. Mr. Williams worked with a will, and before winter came he had made comfortable accommodations for himself and family.

The salmon were plenty in the river, and easily obtained; the moose were plenty in the forests around him, so plenty that Mr. Williams at one time was eating his dinner, and seeing a moose crossing the interval, he shot him from the window. As soon as the grain began to be ripe in the fall, Jacob gathered the ripe ears and dried them before the fire, and carried enough to mill to last a few days, until the full crop should be ripe.

The children of Jacob and Joanna Williams were:

Caleb, born in Barnstable, Massachusetts, July 10, 1780.

Daniel, born July 22, 1782.

John, born Aug. 20, 1784.

Richard, born Feb. 4, 1787.

Isaac, born June 15, 1789.
Elsa, born Aug. 6, 1791.
Ebenezer, born July 17, 1793.
Keziah, born Apr. 29, 1795.
Cyrus, born Apr. 21, 1796.
Francis, born Aug. 27, 1798.
Susan, born Feb. 17, 1801.
Jacob, born March 1, 1802.
Chandler, born June 6, 1804.
Leonard, born Nov. 2, 1806.
Susan, born July 24, 1809.

In those days the families consisted of more children than at present. There were four families living around Carratunk Falls that raised sixty-one children.

Jacob Williams became a wealthy man before his death, which occurred July 12, 1814. He sleeps upon the spot that he chose for his home, and his companion rests by his side. All the sons of Jacob Williams but one lived to a great age.

Moses Thompson, Esq., moved into the plantation and settled on the hill near the ferry; the house that he built is still standing.

Moses Thompson was a great business man; he kept a store, a hotel, and cultivated a large farm. There have never been many loafers in this town, but in the days of "Uncle Moses," as he was well known by travelers in the val-

ley, there was one man that spent a large portion of his time loitering around the store, and "spinning yarns," as he termed it.

There was one story that he used to tell to strangers, which ran thus: "Me and Moses owns more cows than any other two men in town." Moses Thompson owned at that time ten cows, while the story-teller owned one, making eleven in all. There were no other two men in town that owned as many. We think that Moses realized more profit from his cows than he did from the man's stories.

The Clevelands, Burnses, Mullins and Youngs were among the early settlers. Doctor Savage was among the early preachers in town.

About the beginning of the present century, Asahel Hutchins and Simeon Craigin settled in the western part of the town, and became prosperous and wealthy farmers.

In 1840, Elijah Graves built a bridge across the Kennebec River at Carratunk Falls, and a saw-mill at the same time. The mill and bridge went down the river a few years later, and Elijah came near going with them.

At the present time there is neither store, hotel, church, lawyer, doctor or minister in the town, and yet for kindness, hospitality, morality or temperance, this town is excelled

by none in the Kennebec valley. The inhabitants of the town are farmers; the soil is dry and fertile, and well adapted to agriculture. The population of the town is about one thousand.

*Concord.* This town is situated upon the west bank of the Kennebec River, and is the southern town in the Bingham Purchase. The town is hilly, but contains much good grazing land and some excellent farms. There are several large elevations in this town. Old Bluff reaches two-thirds across the town; Johnson Mountain rears its peak in the northern part of the town. South of Bluff is the largest interval in the Kennebec valley. It was upon this lot that the first settler in the town located. Upon the early records of the town we find the following:

"The first settler in this town was Major Ephraim Heald, from Temple, New Hampshire, who came to this county soon after the Revolutionary War, for the privilege of hunting the various kinds of game, which was then plenty in this town, such as moose, bear, beaver, otter, sable, musk-rat, etc. He settled on lots eight and nine, and carried on a considerable trade with the Indians, supplying them with necessary articles for hunting,

such as powder, shot, blankets, cloth, traps, etc.

He resided in this town a number of years, and then returned to Temple again, where he lived to a great age and was universally respected. He was a man of sound judgment, a noble mind, humane and just in all his dealings, and friendly to the poor; graceful in countenance, manly in personage, free in conversation and easy in communication."

There is a tradition that says three brothers by the name of Hale left England and came to Concord, Massachusetts. They agreed that each should spell his name differently, and thus see which branch would become most numerous and distinguished. The names were spelled Hale, Heald and Haile. We are unable to say which has gained the victory.

Thomas Ball settled in the town in 1798. He married a daughter of Stephen Chamberlain. Their children were Samuel, John, Ephraim, Thomas, Isaac, Daniel and Rachel.

Roger Chase was among the first to settle in this town; he was born in the town of Winslow, about 1755.

Chase accompanied Arnold through to the Chaudiere, in the fall of 1775. The following fall he and John Noble were hunting together, when they were surprised by a party

of Indians and taken prisoners by them. It was Sunday morning. Chase and Noble were eating their breakfast in their camp, which was upon the bank of Seven-mile Brook, near the site of the village of Anson. They were taken to Canada and delivered to the British. Chase made his escape and returned to his home.

Jothan Grant settled in the town about the beginning of the present century.

Cornelius Jackson came about the same time. He married Betsy Warren of Vassalboro.'

Cornelius Jackson made and used the first pair of wheels that were in town.

Richard Warren moved to this town in 1832. He was in the battle of Bunker Hill.

Stephen Chase married Polly Moore; their children were Stephen, Thomas, Tamar, Ellenar, Rachel, Lydia and Sarah.

Joseph Moore, Jr., was born in this town. In 1823 he married Louisa Longley.

The town of Concord was incorporated in 1821.

Population at the present time is about five hundred.

*Bingham.* Bingham was the southern town in the Bingham Purchase, upon the east bank of the river. It was named in honor

of William Bingham, the proprietor of the purchase. The first settler in the town is supposed to have been Deacon Ephraim Wood.

Daniel Foster, Joshua Goodrich, William Fletcher and Reverend Obed Wilson were among the pioneers of the town.

William Fletcher, the first permanent settler in the county, moved from Solon to Bingham in 1799, and located near the present site of Bingham Village.

He built a mill upon Austin Stream, near its junction with the river, or just below the bridge.

William Fletcher lived in this town until his death. He died in 1809, aged sixty-four years. He had lived over a quarter of a century in the county; he had seen three prosperous settlements begun, and at last he was obliged to lie down to rest. His wife sleeps beside him in the church-yard in the village. Upon the headstone are these words: "Mrs. Sarah Fletcher, born in Westport, Mass., in 1759; died 1834, aged 92."

They should never be forgotten by the inhabitants of Somerset County; they should be remembered for their works' sake.

Rev. Obed Wilson moved to Bingham from Starks in 1802. He was the son of Oliver Wilson, who married Sarah Harwood, a

daughter of Peter Harwood, who settled in Skowhegan in its early days.

Obed Wilson was a self-made man. His father settled in the town of Starks in its early history; the most of the territory in the town was at that time covered with forests.

Obed was not surrounded with the advantages that many of the youth are at the present time, but he had an ardent thirst for knowledge, and in early life he adopted the maxim penned by one of olden time: "Get wisdom; and with all thy getting, get understanding."

In 1800 he commenced to proclaim the Gospel of his beloved Redeemer.

In 1837 he preached the dedication sermon in the church at Bingham Village, and the following year at Solon.

A graduate of Bowdoin College, who listened to those two discourses, says that "in natural ability, Rev. Obed Wilson stood head and shoulders above those around him."

He was chairman of the first board of selectmen at Bingham.

He represented the town in the Legislature eight terms; four at Portland and four at Augusta. As a political speaker he was equalled by few.

Reverend Obed Wilson was a noted man. He wielded a mighty influence for good, as his moral character was irreproachable.

Obed Wilson died Nov. 18, 1840. His wife, Christianna, died four years before. They rest side by side in the Pierce burying-ground, in Solon.

Oliver Wilson also sleeps by their side. The following epitaph is upon his headstone: "An honest man is the noblest work of God."

Joshua Goodrich settled in the town at an early date. He married Mary Jewett. Their children were Levi, Mary, Pickard, Alvira, Asa, Joseph, Rebekah and Maxmillian.

Mary Goodrich married Daniel Wilson, son of Obed Wilson.

In 1814 there were but two houses in Bingham Village.

Seventy years ago the first four-wheeled carriage was used in town.

The town was incorporated in 1812.

*Moscow.* This town is upon the eastern side of the Kennebec River. It was first called "Baker Town."

There were several families by the name of Baker who settled in this town about the close of the last century.

Asa Fletcher, son of William Fletcher, was among the early inhabitants of the town.

Abner Baker and Reuben Baker were among the first settlers.

Agriculture is the leading business of the inhabitants.

*Carratunk Plantation.* First settler in the town was Paul Cates, who settled here about 1810.

This retains the original name of the whole region between Solon and Moose Head Lake. The plantation was organized in 1840.

*The Forks.* So called because it is at the junction of the two branches of the Kennebec River. A settlement was begun at this place in about 1822 by Major Baker and Benjamin Goodrich. Silas Whitney settled at this place soon after. There is at the present time a thriving settlement at this point.

It will be remembered that Dead River was the northern boundary of Gorges Territory; from this point to Moose River it is about thirty miles, through a wilderness. In 1828 a road was cut through this section and there are a few settlers between the Forks up the Kennebec and Moose River; but as yet very little has been done toward improving the land. Parlin Pond House is beautifully sit-

uated upon the western shore of the pond about fifteen miles north of the Forks; the Jackman place is known by travellers through this section and the Scribner farm should not be forgotten.

*Holden Town.* This town is situated in the northern part of the county. It is thirty miles north of the settlement at the junction of the two branches of the Kennebec River. This settlement is upon the banks of Moose River, surrounded by forests of spruce and pine; the air is pure and temperate and the rich soil is watered by springs and is very productive. This delightful halting place for travellers, as they pass through this section, is destined to become a great emporium of trade.

Captain Samuel Holden was the first settler in this place; he was born in Groton, Massachusetts, in 1772. In 1797, he married Jane Farnsworth, a daughter of Joseph Farnsworth.

Two daughters were born in Groton, namely, Almira and Jane.

About the year 1800, Captain Holden, his wife and two children and his mother, who was at that time a widow, came to Norridgewock. Melintus Holden, their oldest son,

was born in Norridgewock in 1801; Jonas, Sally, Lorinda, Mary, Samuel and Otis were born in Anson.

Captain Holden started from Anson for Moose River, March 4, 1819. They made the journey from the Forks of the Kennebec River to Moose River upon snow-shoes, as the snow was deep in the woods at that time of the year. Captain Holden built him a log cabin, covered it with bark, and here they made their home in the midst of the wilderness. There was not an inhabitant for miles around, and had it not been for the abundance of fish in the river and the game in the surrounding forests, they could not have lived; but with this and, as his account book shows, the small amount they received from travellers that were passing back and forth from Canada, they were enabled to obtain a living the first two or three years.

After the first two or three years they were enabled to raise small crops, and before long Captain Holden had a plenty. Before his death there was quite a settlement formed around him. Rachel Holden, Captain Holden's mother, died at Moose River in 1822.

In 1852 this settlement was organized into a plantation called Moose River Plantation.

The population at the present time is about two hundred.

Thus have we traced the Kennebec River from its union with the Atlantic to its source. We have given a brief sketch of the early history of the towns along its banks, and in our next chapter we will give a few notes relating to the passage of Arnold's army up the Kennebec valley.

## CHAPTER VII.

### ARNOLD IN THE KENNEBEC VALLEY.

The passage of Arnold's army up the Kennebec valley was a great event to the early inhabitants; eye witnesses describe the train as several miles in length.

Above Norridgewock it was an unbroken and uninhabited wilderness. At Norridgewock there were about ten families. Between this place and Winslow there was but one settlement, containing less than ten families.

Around Fort Halifax there was quite a large group of homesteads, and at Gatchell's Corner in Vassalboro' there were a few families;

these were all the settlers there were north of Augusta.

Benedict Arnold with one thousand one hundred men arrived at Fort Western about the 20th of September, 1775, *en route* for Quebec. Fort Western being at the head of navigation upon the Kennebec River, Arnold was obliged to leave his transports at this place and the main army advanced up the river by land while their supplies were placed in batteaux and conveyed up the river.

About the 25th of September, the army left Fort Western. Their progress up the valley was very slow: the banks of the river were lined with heavy forests, through which they were obliged to cut a road, while there were several steep falls in the river that the boats and their burden were carried by. Arnold enlisted a number of boatmen and guides that lived in this section to accompany the army through this almost impassable wilderness.

There were two Indian sachems that lived upon the Kennebec, who offered valuable services to the army as guides through the wilderness to Quebec. They were brothers and were known as Natanis and Sabbatis. Natanis abode in Vassalboro' and Sabbatis in Skowhegan.

In Doctor Senter's journal, in which he gives an interesting account of the passage of the army up the Kennebec valley, he makes mention of these two sachems as being trusty guides and very able boatmen, at one time taking his boat safely through swift rapids which the other boatmen dared not try.

These two chieftains accompanied Arnold down the Chaudiere, and were in the siege of Quebec, December 31, 1775, where Natanis was wounded and taken prisoner, but soon afterward set at liberty. They were the only Indians known to have been employed by the Americans in the Revolution.

But to return to Arnold's march up the Kennebec. About the middle of October the army left Old Point and moved up the valley. As the army passed up the river it rested upon Weston's Island. Arriving at Carratunk Falls, the main army halted and assisted the boatmen in carrying by this steep pitch. At last the army reached the point where they were to leave the Kennebec River and transport their munitions across to Dead River, a distance of about fifteen miles, through a thick forest. Preparations being made, the army bade adieu to the Kennebec and took their journey through the wilderness toward the west. Upon reaching Dead

River they followed this stream a few miles until they came to a level spot of ground, and here the army of the Kennebec halted. They were nearing the Canadian border; they were soon to enter an enemy's land, yea, they were upon soil that England claimed, but despite all this, the heroic Arnold climbed to the top of a lofty pine and unfurled to the breeze our country's flag. Arnold encamped upon this spot about two weeks, and then resumed his march toward the St. Lawrence.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### DRESDEN.

This town is situated upon the eastern shore of the river and is within Lincoln County.

It was embraced in the ancient Pownalborough until 1794, when it was set off and incorporated under its present name. The plantation name was Frankfort. It was settled as early as 1750.

This was a noted town in the early history of the valley. In 1754, Fort Shirley was built upon the bank of the river about opposite Swan-island, which had been the dwelling-place of the rulers of the Kennebec tribe.

In 1760, the county seat was established at this place, and the county buildings were erected at this point. The building in which was the court room is standing at the present time.

Captain Samuel Goodwin, commander at Fort Shirley, also agent for the Plymouth Company, had his office in this building.

Reverend Jacob Bailey resided at this place in its early days. The house that was occupied by Judge Bowman is still standing. Paul Hatch settled in this town near the close of the last century.

## CHAPTER IX.

### CASCO BAY.

This bay receives the waters of the Kennebec River and its tributaries; it also contains many beautiful islands, some of which are inhabited.

Casco Neck is the most charming spot to be found upon its shore. A party of gentlemen at Venice were discussing the relative attractions of localities visited by them. It was conceded that Italy abounded in lovely scenery, but one of them affirmed that the finest prospects he had ever enjoyed were at Portland and Casco Bay. The view that one obtains from the observatory on Munjoy Hill is perfectly delightful.

About 1640, Sir Alexander Rigby purchased a tract of land, forty miles square, lying upon the shore of Casco Bay. This was known as the Lygonian Patent; it also included the islands in Casco Bay.

Great Island, Orr's Island and Bailey's Island are beautiful islands, near the mainland, forming the greater part of the town of Harpswell.

Jewell's Island is about ten miles from the main, its southern shore being washed by the Atlantic Ocean.

The oft-repeated story of Captain Kidd and his treasures, black Dinah and her divining rod, invest those wild, rocky shores with peculiar interest.

Peak's Island is about two miles from the city of Portland. Michael Mitton settled upon this island as early as 1637, and for sixty years it was known as Michael's Island.

*Chebeague Island.* This island lies between Long Island and Portland. It is about six miles long and three in breadth, and contains a population of about seven hundred. The shores of this island were a favorite resort for the Indian, it being located at a point in the bay that could easily be reached by the tribes who dwelt in the surrounding country. The symbolical number seems to be associated with this island. From Chebeague to Portland it is about seven miles; from this island to Falmouth is seven miles; a distance of about seven miles intervenes between the island and Maquoit shore, and about the same

number of miles lies between this island and Harpswell, so we see that this island was a convenient center for the Indians to meet and celebrate a joyful feast or join in the wild war dance when a victory had been gained.

*Richman's Island.* This is a small island near Cape Elizabeth. It is about three miles in circumference, and contains some pretty good land. This island was embraced within the Lygonian Plantation. In 1628, a man by the name of Walter Bagnall took possession of this island without any title; his principal object in settling upon it was to trade with the Indians. Bagnall carried on an extensive trade with the Indians, and in a few years became a very rich man for those times.

The historian says that Bagnall was an unprincipled man and a very wicked fellow; he was known by the nick-name of "Great Walt," and became a terror to the natives of the surrounding shores. About 1635, an Indian sachem by the name of Squidrayset, with a few warriors, visited the island, killed Bagnall, plundered his house and reduced it to ashes. In early history this was a convenient place for fishermen to dwell, and at one time there was quite a settlement upon this island.

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Y0-DTI-055